MADRAS
INFORMATION

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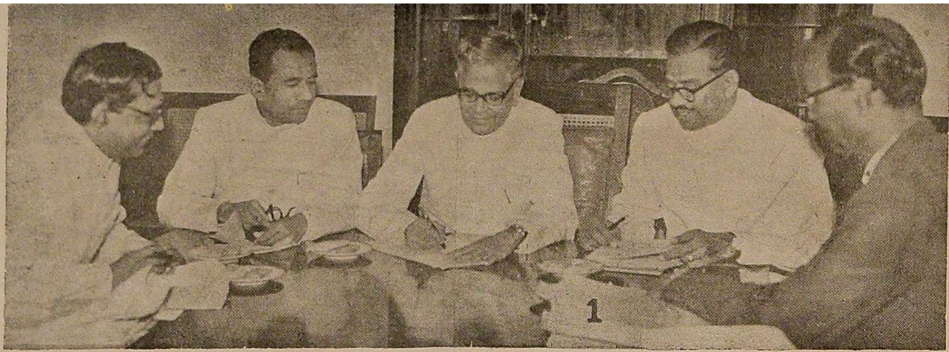
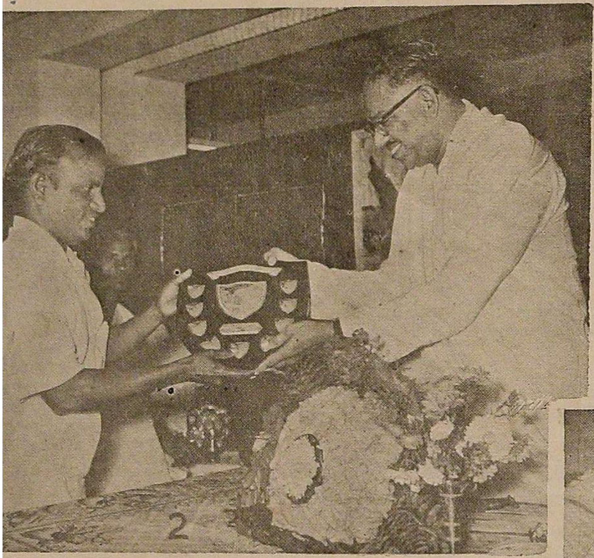
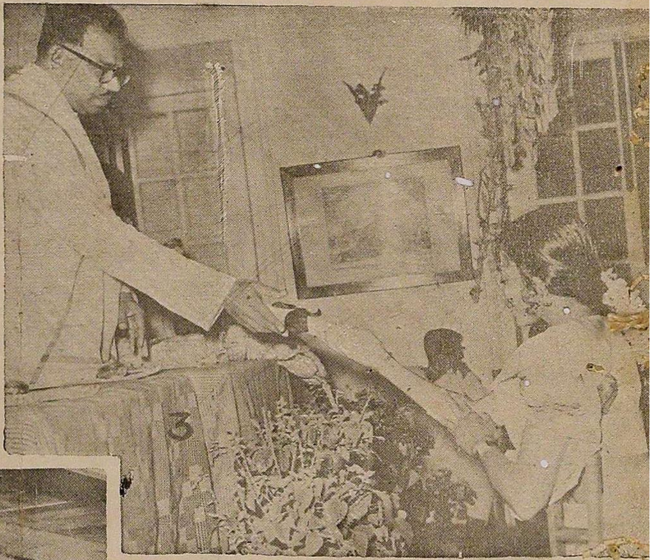


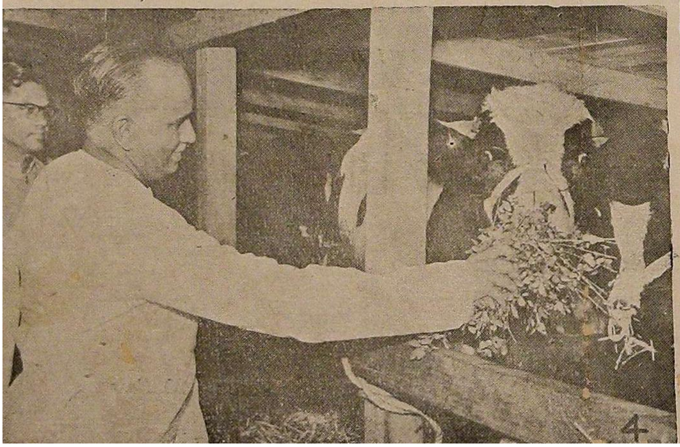
1. An agreement was signed for the supply of 300 Million Units of power from Mysore to Madras Thiru R. Venkatraman, Member, Planning Commission, New Delhi, Thiru V. P. Appadurai, Chairman, Madras State Electricity Board, Thiru Thirumalai, Secretary, P.W.D., Madras Government, Thiru Chandappa Patel, Secretary, P.W.D. and Electricity, Mysore have signed the agreement in the presence of Thiru V. R. Nedunchezhiyan, Minister for Industries, Madras and Thiru Veerendra Patil, Minister, P.W.D. and Electricity, Mysore.



2. Thiru V. R. Nedunchezhiyan, Minister for Education and Industries, declared open the Research Tubicl s in the Madras City Local Library a d distributed Shields and Prizes to the winners of the Enrolment Campaign, 1967 on 7th February 1967. The Minister is seen distributing the Shields to the winners in the Enrolment Campaign,



3. Thiru V. R. Nedunchezhiyan, Minister for Education and Industries, presenting Certificates and Diplomas to the successful students of the Central College of Karnataka Music, Madras on 21-2-1968.



4. The ship 'Viswakalyan' has brought from Australia from " The Society for those who have Less " 150 exotic animals of which 18 Jersey bulls are for the Madras State Thiru A. Govindasamy, Minister for Agriculture, feeding a bull on board the ship at Madras Harbour on 27-2-1968.

SALIENT FEATURES

* City Compensatory Allowance extended to suburban areas of Madras and Madurai.
* Students in Pre-technical classes in Polytechnics exempted from payment of tuition fees.
* State raffle to be introduced.
* Extension of area under High Yielding Varieties of Paddy and Millets.
* Six new Colleges to be opened.
* Siddha wings to be opened in all District Headquarters Hospitals.
* Plan for a Cancer Control Project at Kancheepuram.
* Possible introduction of shift system in PUC in urban areas.

Allocation of Resources Needs Review

Excerpts from the speech of Thiru C. N. Annadurai, Chief Minister, presenting the Budget for 1968–69 on 28th February 1968 to the Madras Legislative Assembly.

The presentation of this Budget marks the completion of almost a year in office of the present Government. The House should bear with me, if I am constrained to invite the attention of the House to the state of the national economy when this Government assumed office. The Third Plan had run its full course and a year had elapsed without the uncertainty regarding the Fourth Plan being resolved. The Third Plan was overfulfilled in financial terms, the actual expenditure being of the order of Rs. 8,630 crores, against the original provision of only Rs. 7,500 crores.

Economic background

In spite of the overfulfilment of the Plan in purely financial terms, there were serious shortfalls in the attainment of physical targets in crucial sectors. Except in one year, i.e., 1964–65, agricultural production did not show any increase in the Third Plan period and the actual production in 1965–66 was only 73 million tonnes of foodgrains, against a target of 100 million tonnes. National income grew at an annual average of only 2·8 per cent, against the target of 5 per cent. In view of the steady growth of population, the improvement in per capita income worked out to an annual average of only 0·3 per cent in the Third Plan. There was thus virtually no improvement in the standards of living of our people in spite of massive expenditure and the substantial privation which the people had undergone in the form of additional taxes.

The failure of agricultural production, coinciding with large disbursements in the name of the Plan, resulted in a very steep rise in prices, bringing acute distress for larger sections of our people. Taking the Third Plan period as a whole, prices rose by 36·4 per cent which was larger than the increase that had occurred in the preceding ten years.

This was the economic situation which faced us when we assumed responsibility for the conduct of affairs in this State. The promotion of economic growth is rightly looked upon in the circumstances as a joint responsibility of the Centre and the States, the Central Government being obviously the dominant partner.

State Government's role

In the draft Fourth Plan, it was visualised that the States should mobilise additional resources to the extent of Rs. 825 crores over the Five-Year period ending 1970–71. The outlay on the Fourth Plan for this State was fixed at Rs. 564 crores, which constituted only 8 per cent of the total outlay visualised for all State Plans together. Even so, this State was called upon to raise additional resources to the extent of Rs. 105 crores, which works out to 12·5 per cent of the resources to be raised by all States. Against the target of Rs. 105 crores of additional taxation set by the Planning Commission, the action already taken by us will bring Rs 8[illegible]

crores. In other words, the State has fulfilled about 80 per cent of its target. According to my information, no other State has such an impressive record in regard to mobilisation of resources for the Fourth Plan.

The State in deploying its own resources and those made available by the Central Government should observe the relative priorities of the Plan and that in particular there should be no frittering away of resources on prestigious projects which do not in terms of direct or indirect returns contribute significantly to the strengthening of the economy. It will be generally conceded that we have avoided schemes involving wasteful expenditure and have concentrated on programmes well within our capacity to execute and administer effectively and that, by and large, these are the programmes best calculated to improve the economy of the State.

Resource distribution

The fulfilment of a big plan will generate additional purchasing power on a significant scale and that, therefore, effective steps should be taken to regulate supplies of essential articles so as to contain their prices within reasonable limits. In this respect too, I can confidently claim that in the year which has gone by, the State Government have fulfilled their responsibilities. Through efficient programme of procurement we have managed to keep up uninterrupted supplies of foodgrains. The prices of foodgrains, even in the open market, have been maintained at far more reasonable levels than elsewhere in the country.

This House and the people at large are entitled to know why despite all these, it has not been possible for this State to sustain a rising tempo of development and meet in a fuller measure the pressing needs of the people. In our view, it is the serious imbalance in distribution of resources as between Centre and States and the failure of the Central Government to keep its non-developmental expenditure under control which are largely responsible for the tardy progress of the Plan particularly in the last three years. In terms of the Constitution, the more elastic sources of revenue have been reserved for the Centre, while the more expansive functions such as education and public health have been assigned to the States. This imbalance has hitherto been sought to be redressed at least in part through a steadily rising scale of Central assistance for programmes of economic development. But when the Fourth Plan of this State was tentatively finalised in November 1966, Central assistance of only Rs. 250 crores was offered towards an outlay of Rs. 564 crores. At about 44 per cent of the total outlay, Central assistance was significantly lower than in the earlier Plan periods. Even in relation to the aggregate Central assistance for Fourth Plan, the figure agreed upon for this State was low constituting as it did only 7 per cent of the total Central assistance, though in terms of population this State should have secured 7·8 per cent of Central assistance.

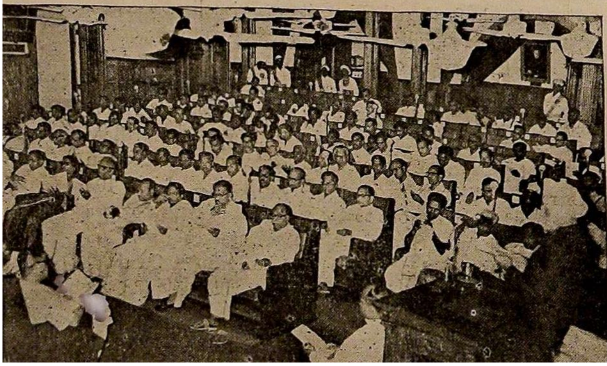
Even this had not been released in the agreed proportion in 1966–67 and 1967–68. For the coming year, in response to our pressing request, the Planning Commission has recognised the need for allocating Central assistance in the proportion agreed upon. But as regards the shortfall in the last two years, the Commission has agreed to make good only one-third, though having regard to serious difficulties which we face in the next year, it should, in all fairness, have compensated us fully. Among the few States which had not received the proportionate assistance due to them in the last two years, ours is perhaps the only State which, in terms of the award of the Fourth Finance Commission, does not have any surplus on non-plan account and on this consideration atleast, our request should have evoked favourable response.

Central assistance

Apart from this halting release of Central assistance, the quantum of Central assistance for all State plans together has remained stationary and has in fact come down.

Stagnation in Central assistance for State plans and lack of adequate buoyancy in State's share of Central taxes have coincided with large increase in repayment of loans due to the Government of India. State Governments have therefore been contending with the Government of India and successive Finance Commissions that the Government of India should take note of the unremunerative nature of a substantial portion of the capital outlay at the State level and provide relief to the State through revision of the present onerous terms regarding rate of interest and schedule of repayments. Government of India have now put forward certain tentative proposals for consolidation of the debt due to them from the various States. But the proposals as adumbrated by them do not go far enough. They fail to take note of the fact that a significant portion of our debt has been incurred for such purposes as provision of water-supply or relief of distress

Sardar Ujjal Singh, Governor of Madras, addressing the Joint Session of the Madras Legislature on 10th February 1968



caused by cyclones or famines or for relief and rehabilitation of goldsmiths and that such loans should, in fairness, be converted into outright grants.

Apart from interest charges, there is also a sharp increase in the repayment of loans to the Government of India in the Budget Estimates for 1968–69 as compared with the current year. Against Rs. 20·3 crores repayable in the current year, our liability, exclusive of repayment of purely short-term loans, is of the order of Rs. 27·3 crores, representing an increase of Rs. 7 crores. This is one of the main factors contributing to the erosion in our resources for the plan next year. In 1966–67, the Central Government extended special assistance to the extent of Rs. 108 crores for clearance of overdrafts to certain States. Madras is one of the States which did not have to seek any such assistance. There is alround recognition that Government of India should initiate action for stabilising the financial position of the State Governments and that, in particular, resort to unauthorised overdrafts should be put an end to. At this juncture therefore a State which had so far, on its own efforts, steered clear of any financial crisis and has not flinched from mobilising resources for the Plan should be helped to maintain an even pace of development. To deny such help will, in fact, be to penalise us for our prudence in the past.

Repayment problem

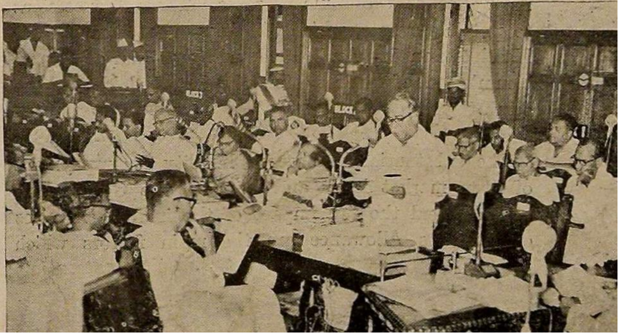
On the difficulties caused by repayment of large sums to Government of India have been superimposed those arising from repayment of large open market loans raised in the past. In the current year, we have raised an open market loan of Rs. 18 crores and after repayment of a maturing loan of Rs. 10·5 crores, there was a net accrual of resources of the order of Rs. 7·5 crores. We have a large open market loan of about Rs. 14 crores maturing for repayment next year and on the assumption that we will be able to raise a new loan of the order of Rs. 20 crores, the net relief to the Government's ways and means position will be only Rs. 6 crores. On this account alone, therefore, there will be a shortfall in resources for the plan of Rs. 1 5 crores as compared with the current year. Repayment of maturing loans should present no problems if, in the past, adequate provision had been made for amortisation. Since 1955, following certain specific instructions from the Government of India in this regard, contribution towards Sinking Fund had been made only at certain very low rates in our State. Striking a line different from that of the three earlier Commissions, the Fourth Finance Commission recognised that service and amortisation charges on market borrowings of State Governments should be considered a legitimate charge on the revenues of the State to be covered by devolution. But instead of providing for the actual amounts needed for full amortisation, they included in their scheme of devolution only the amounts as worked out on the basis of the practice actually in vogue in the States concerned.

We are glad to note that Government of India have themselves subsequently realised the need to set right this anomaly and provide for special assistance to the States so as to enable them to set apart in full for amortisation of open market loans. After setting off a sum of Rs. 8·9 crores already included in the scheme of devolution of the Fourth Finance Commission for the five year period, the Government of India have now indicated that they will make a special grant of the order of Rs. 6·05 crores each year, beginning from 1966–67 towards amortisation of public debt. They have however qualified this offer with the condition that this sum will not be paid in cash but will be provided by conversion of the miscellaneous development loan for financing the Plan into grant.

The Government of India's proposals would mean that one group of States such as Madras, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Mysore and Rajasthan will suffer a reduction in Plan assistance equivalent to the special grant for amortisation, while the other group of States such as Maharashtra, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, which have already secured from the Finance Commission adequate assistance for amortisation, will not suffer any such reduction in plan assistance. Equity therefore demands that Government of India's assistance for amortisation which will work out to Rs. 18·15 crores for the three years 1966–67, 1967–68 and 1968–69 should be in addition to normal plan assistance. Even if Government of India's ways and means position does not permit it to extend assistance in full to the extent of Rs. 18·15 crores, it should not be difficult for them to give at least the assistance due for 1968–69, viz., Rs. 6·05 crores without seeking to set it off against the miscellaneous development loan for the plan. Such assistance will incidentally enable us to maintain the tempo of development in the coming year.

The successive increases in rates of Dearness Allowance of Government employees, though fully justified

Chief Minister addressing the Legislative Council on presenting the Budget for 1968-69 on 28th February 1968



with reference to rise in prices and the need to protect the standards of living of low paid employees have caused serious strain on the State's resources. While the increases granted upto the end of 1965-66 have been taken care of by the award of the Fourth Finance Commission, no such relief has been available in respect of subsequent increases.

But even in the absence of any Central assistance, we felt that we would not be justified in denying the claims of the employees for rates of Dearness Allowance on a par with those applicable to the employees of the Central Government. We had therefore increased the rates of dearness allowance of our employees with effect from pay for November 1967 due on 1st December. The Budget Estimates for 1968-69 have been framed accordingly, the commitments on accounts of Dearness Allowance entailing an additional burden on revenue account of the order of Rs. 9·2 crores.

D.A. and C.C.A.

We have also sanctioned for employees of State Government drawing pay up to Rs. 500, City Compensatory Allowance at the same rates as those applicable to the employees of Government of India. The Government have now decided that City Compensatory Allowance should be extended also to teachers in aided institutions within the limits of Madras City. Taking note of certain representations from the employees, the Government have now decided to extend City Compensatory Allowance to areas adjacent to Madras City in which the employees are already drawing house rent allowance at rates applicable to Madras City. In terms of this decision, the City Compensatory Allowance will be extended to places such as St. Thomas Mount, Pallavaram, Chromepet, Tambaram, Ambattur, Villivakkam, Avadi and Madhavaram. Teachers in aided institutions and employees of local bodies in these areas will also get the benefit of this decision. The Government have also proposed to extend City Compensatory Allowance to all their employees working in offices within the limits of Madurai town at 5 per cent of pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 5 and maximum of Rs. 10 to all employees getting a pay of below Rs. 500. Teachers in aided institutions and employees of local bodies working within the limits of Madurai town will also get the benefit of City Compensatory Allowance at the same rates. These concessions to public servants, which will take effect from pay for March due on 1st April 1968, will entail an additional commitment of the order of nearly Rs. 40 lakhs in the coming year.

The substantial increase in liability for repayment of open market loans and loans to the Government of India and the full impact of the increase in rates of Dearness Allowance are the main factors which contribute to the deterioration in resources for the Plan next year as compared with the current year It should also be mentioned that we have in the curren year appreciably stepped up outlays on programme like Minor Irrigation, Fisheries and Power with the result that the aggregate outlay on the Plan will be of the order of Rs. 88·10 crores as compared with only Rs. 85·28 crores we had budgeted for. We had also anticipated that the Centre would agree in the course of the year to step up its assistance from Rs. 38 crores to Rs. 43·5 crores. This expectation has not materialised and we have therefore had to dip into our own resources for financing a bigger Plan.

Agricultural production

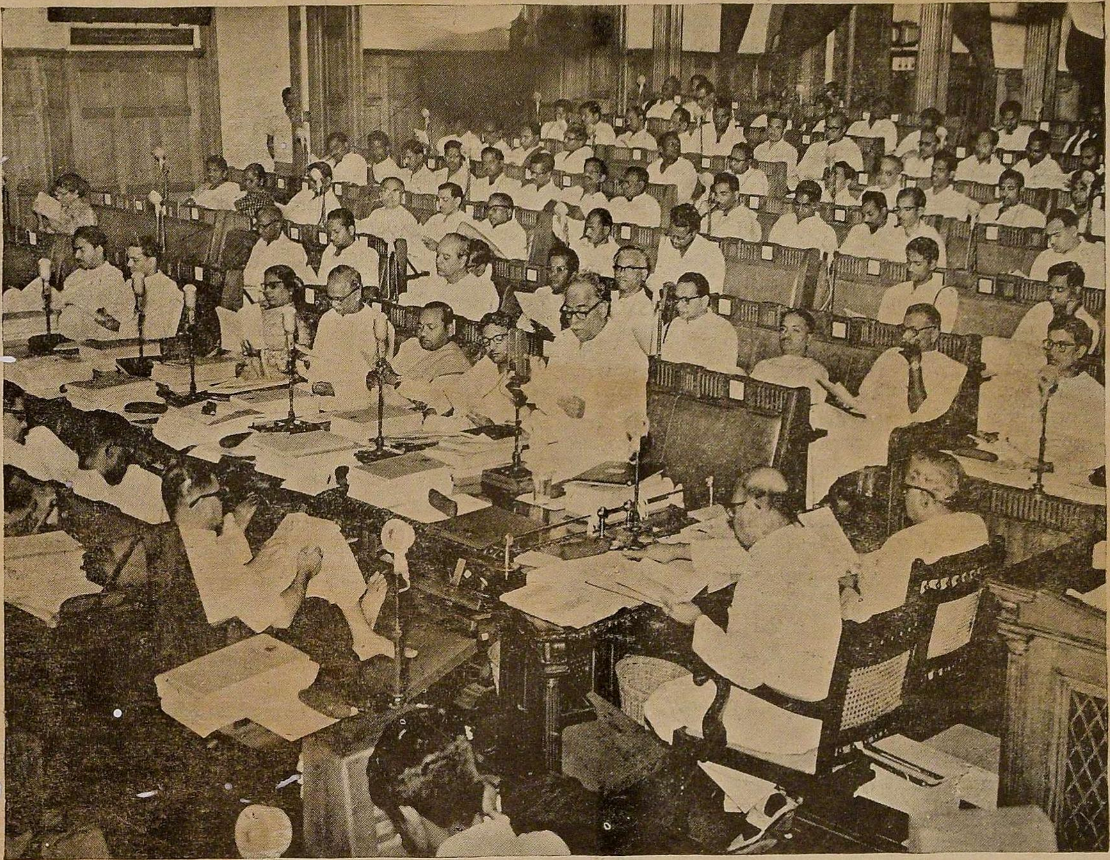
In drawing up the Plan for next year, taking into account the considerable erosion of resources which has taken place on account of factors mentioned above, we have taken care to see that the tempo of development in crucial sectors is maintained at a reasonable level. We have continued the emphasis on agricultural production and associated programmes, particularly in view of the success we have achieved in the current year in programmes relating to high yielding varieties and conversion of single crop lands into double crop lands. I should hasten to add that the increase in production of food grains which we have registered in the current year is not due to favourable seasonal condition.

The rainfall during the crucial stage of plant growth was highly unfavourable. The storage in major irrigation reservoirs has also been comparatively unsatisfactory. Despite these unfavourable seasonal conditions it is gratifying to note that the production of foodgrains in the current year will be of the order of about 60 lakhs tonnes, representing an increase of 2 lakhs tonnes over the level of 1966-67.

Minor irrigation programmes

Encouraged by the results achieved under the high yielding varieties programme in the current year, Government propose to step up the acreage under paddy from about 13 lakh acres in the current year to 25 lakh acres next year. Likewise, the area under hybrid millets will also be stepped up from about 1 lakh acres in the current year to 1·7 lakh acres next year. The success of the high yielding varieties programme depends in a large measure on increased use of fertilisers. We are accordingly planning for a massive increase in the consumption of fertilisers from the present level of about 1 lakh tonnes of nitrogen.

Government are aware that the high-yielding varieties programme should go on hand in hand with augmentation of facilities for irrigation and that, in particular, there should be a vigorous campaign for conversion of single crop wet lands into double crop wet lands



The Chief Minister, who presented the Budget for 1968-69 on 28th February 1968 to the Assembly, is addressing the House

This will call for extension of facilities for left irrigation and the programmes relating to sinking of wells, bore wells, filterpoint tube-wells and installation of electric motor pumpsets therefore acquire special importance. At the same time, it has been pointed out to us both by the Planning Commission and the Government of India that we should have recourse to institutional finance on a large scale in pushing through these programmes. The Reserve Bank of India, Life Insurance Corporation and commercial banks are now coming forward to support agricultural production programmes in a big way. Assistance from these sources will however be available only to the co-operative sector and not to Government direct.

Under the pattern now decided on by the Government new loans for sinking of wells and installation of pumpsets will be made available only through land mortgage banks. Likewise, the Agro-Industries Corporation, which will start functioning effectively soon will take over the responsibility for supply of pumpsets and tractors on hire-purchase terms.

Government have also formulated certain programmes for intensive special development of minor irrigation facilities in compact blocks, particularly in areas commanded by major irrigation projects, so as to promote conversion on a large scale of single crop lands into double crop lands. These schemes will be implemented with special assistance from Agricultural Refinance Corporation. A scheme for sinking of 2,000 wells and installation of 500 pumpsets involving an aggregate outlay of Rs. 92·5 lakhs in Pudukottai region has already been sanctioned by the Agricultural Refinance Corporation and it is expected that, as part of this programme, it will be possible to complete the sinking of 500 wells and installation of 100 pumpsets at a cost of Rs. 22·5 lakhs next year. Likewise, the Agricultural Refinance Corporation had already sanctioned a scheme for sinking of 1,000 wells and installation of 1,000 pumpsets in Thondamuthur and Perianaickenpalayam Blocks in Coimbatore district at a total cost of Rs. 168 lakhs and in pursuance of this programme it is proposed to complete 250 wells and install 250 pumpsets next year at a cost of Rs. 42 lakhs.

Schemes have also been formulated for securing assistance from Agricultural Refinance Corporation (i) for sinking of 2,000 wells and installation of 2,000 pumpsets in Amaravathi Reservoir Project area in Coimbatore district at a cost of Rs. 160 lakhs, (ii) for 900 wells and 900 electric motor pumpsets at a cost of Rs. 45 lakhs in Periyar extension area in Ramanathapuram district, (iii) 2,650 wells and 4,000 pumpsets in New Kattalai and Pullambadi canal areas of Tiruchirappalli district at a cost of Rs. 165 lakhs, (iv) for 2,000 wells and 2,000 pumpsets in Madurai and Melur taluks of Madurai district at a cost of Rs. 100 lakhs and (v) for 2,000 wells and 2,000 pumpsets in Krishnagiri taluk of Dharmapuri districtat a cost of Rs. 100 lakhs.

We are also executing with utmost expedition the few medium irrigation projects for which there is still scope in our State. A provision of Rs. 358 lakhs has been made for these schemes in the Budget Estimates for 1968–69. Parambikulam-Aliyar Project with a provision of Rs. 206 lakhs absorbs the bulk of the outlay under Irrigation Schemes. The present tempo in respect of Chittar-Pattanamkal will be maintained with the provision of Rs. 95 lakhs now being made. It should be possible to take the Manimukthanadhi Scheme very nearly to the stage of completion with the allocation of Rs. 34 lakhs in next year's Budget. It will be possible also to make an earnest beginning with Ramanadhi and Ghatana reservior schemes in Tirunelveli district as a provision of Rs. 20 lakhs has now been made for the two schemes together. Preliminary work will also be undertaken in regard to modernisation of channels of the Vaigai system, which will eventually entail a capital outlay of the order of Rs. 4 crores.

Ground-water survey

The scope for new major irrigation projects in this State is limited and even the few projects found feasible depend on the concurrence of neighbouring States, which, understandably, takes a long time to secure. Government have therefore recognised for some time now that their efforts should be directed towards investigating and exploiting fully the ground water potentialities in select areas such as the Palar river basin, Neyveli region, Cauvery delta and the environs of Madras City. A project in this regard was drawn up on the basis of a report of Special Study Team sent by United Nations Organisation and is under implementation since 1966. As the present project does not provide adequate coverage for the Cauvery delta, this Government have recently made a request to the United Nations through the Government of India for additional assistance for extension of investigation for ground water in the Cauvery delta. The second phase of the project, which will take about eighteen months to complete, will entail an expenditure of about Rs. 45 lakhs for the United Nations and about Rs. 48 lakhs for the State Government. A mission from the United Nations recently visited the Cauvery delta and made an on the spot evaluation of the project proposed by us. They have considered the scheme as proposed by us feasible and desirable and have recommended it for acceptance. The Government have also recently sanctioned an expenditure of Rs. 4·5 lakhs for an aerial survey of the project areas by a foreign team and United Nations Development Programme is arranging this survey.

Indo-German project

An intensive agricultural development programme was launched in Nilgiris district early in 1967 with the help of the Federal Republic of Germany. Under this project, special emphasis will be laid on protecting the potato crop in Nilgiris district against the incidence of " late blight ". Likewise, steps will be taken to arrest the spread of golden nematode which is found in the cultivation of potato. Attention will also be concentrated on development of animal husbandry, poultry-keeping and dairy farming.

Government have also drawn up a scheme for financing tea plantions in Nilgiris district through co-operative land mortgage banks. An extent of 2,000 acres in a compact area comprising Kundah, Kothagiri, Coonoor, Kil-Kotagiri firkas in Ootacamund and Coonoor taluks will be taken up for intensive cultivation.

In framing next year's Plan we have kept in view also possibilities of supplementing our food resources through more intensive development of fisheries. The outlay on development schemes in respect of fisheries has been raised in the current year from Rs. 84·5 lakhs in the Budget Estimates to Rs. 156·7 lakhs in the Revised Estimates. Though in the last few years we have made some appreciable progress with mechanisation of our fishing craft, it is a matter for regret that no serious attempt has so far been made to exploit possibilities of deep-sea fishing. We have now placed orders for procurement of 4 trawlers at a total cost of Rs. 36 lakhs. Having regard to the long period of delivery of the trawlers, a sum of Rs. 10·35 lakhs has been included in the Budget Estimates of 1968–69 towards expenditure on one trawler expected to be delivered in 1968–69 and for advance payments on the remaining trawlers to be made available in subsequent years.

Likewise, under Animal Husbandry too, the present scale of activities will be maintained. Government attach great importance to the wide dispersal of facilities for treatment of animals and have accordingly provided for the establishment of 50 veterinary dispensaries in different rural centres in the coming year. Besides,

a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs has been allotted for new programmes connected with eradication of rinderpest in an attempt to conserve our cattle wealth.

With improvement in agricultural production and stabilisation of prices of foodgrains at more reasonable levels, we may expect the purchasing power of people to improve significantly and give a stimulus to industrial production. In this slowly improving context, Government are glad to note that private entrepreneurs are again evincing interest in the establishment of major industrial undertakings in the State. We understand from the Government of India that a Plant for manufacture of polyster fibre in our State involving a capital outlay of about Rs. 10 crores will be shortly licensed in the private sector. The Government have also received proposals from private entrepreneurs for setting up of units for manufacture of semi-conductors, earth moving equipment, carbon black and baby food.

Industrial development

The State Government also continue to press the Government of India for the establishment of some major industrial projects in the State so as to ensure that we get our due share of the massive investments of the Central Government in promotion of major industries. An important scheme on which I have made personal representations to the Government of India relates to the setting up of a factory for the manufacture of electronic equipment, involving a capital outlay of Rs. 10 crores. This project, when completed, will provide employment for 3,500 skilled workers. I hope that the personal representations which I have made to the Union Defence Minister will evoke favourable response. We have also moved the Government of India for the location of a heavy plates and vessels project in the State with Rumanian collaboration. This factory is intended for manufacture of pressure vessels and equipment required for chemical industries, fertiliser projects and petroleum refineries and will entail a capital outlay eventually of about Rs. 10 crores and provide employment for 2,000 workers. The Government also hope that the second unit of the Indian Telephone Industries, Bangalore, will be located in this State. If the concept of balanced regional development to which Government of India and Planning Commission have attached importance is to be translated into reality, our request for the location of these major projects has to be complied with.

Industries in State sector

The House is already aware that in response to strong representations made by this Government and public agitation in this regard last year, Government of India have at long last sanctioned the development of a deep-sea harbour at Tuticorin at a cost of Rs. 24·40 crores.

The work in regard to establishment of a continuous steel casting plant at Arkonam and a cement plant at Alangulam, the two major projects entrusted to the Madras State Industrial Development Corporation, is progressing satisfactorily. The cement plant will go into production towards the end of 1968–69 or early in 1969–70. The Corporation is also investigating possibilities of establishing a machine tool plant, a sponge iron plant and a machine tools accessories plant. In regard to the machine tools project, an application has already been made to the Government of India for an industrial licence and their sanction is awaited. In respect of the Sponge Iron Project, negotiations are being held with Messrs. Lurgi of West Germany for supply of plant and equipment. Hindustan Machine Tools, Bangalore, has offered to be consultant for the Corporation in establishing a machine tools accessories plant and possibilities of securing their financial collaboration are now being explored. Another project in the public sector which is worthy of special mention is the mechanised brick plant at Thirumazhisai, which has been commissioned in January 1968 at a cost of about Rs. 70 lakhs. The establishment of sugar factories in the co-operative sector will also be pursued actively. A provision of Rs. 35 lakhs has been made in the Budget Estimates for 1968–69 for contributing to the share capital of co-operative sugar factories. Apart from the factory at Dharmapuri for which Government have already contributed Rs. 15 lakhs, Government are envisaging three more sugar factories—two in North Arcot and one in Coimbatore district.

Salem steel plant

The programme for establishment of industrial estates is being implemented with unabated vigour. Work has been started in the current year on functional industrial estates for instrument industries, electronic industries and for pharmaceuticals. In the Budget Estimates for 1968–69 provision has been made for the establishment of an ancillary industrial estate near Hindustan Photo Films Factory at Ootacamund and for a conventional industrial estate at Cuddalore.

Government have recognised that industrial development calls for an intensive survey of the mineral wealth of the State. The Government have availed themselves of assistance from Special Fund of the United Nations Development Programme and sanctioned a project for mineral development. The project envisages extensive and intensive geological survey on modern lines over an area of approximately 14,000 square kilometres forming part of Salem, North Arcot and South Arcot districts lying in the belt between Vellore, Salem and Vridhachalam. It is proposed to carry out photo-geological mapping and air-borne geophysical surveys of the entire area using air-borne magnetometer and gamma ray spectrometer. The United Nations have agreed to contribute towards this programme about $ 1 million (Rs. 75 lakhs), the State Government's own counterpart contribution being about Rs. 35 lakhs. The air-borne survey has already commenced.

While it is necessary to continue these efforts at investigation of the mineral wealth of the State it is a matter for regret that we are unable to exploit even the known sources of mineral wealth. The technical and economic feasibility of establishment of a steel plant in Salem based on Kanjamalai iron ores and Neyveli lignite has been firmly established through surveys and studies extending well over a decade. But the House is aware how the unhelpful attitude of the Government of India at every stage has held up the consummation of this project. The argument that it is lack of recources which is holding up this project is hollow and will not stand close scrutiny. It is the firm view of this Government that if only the Government of India had some genuine regard for balanced regional development in a country of continental dimensions, the massive allocation made for the gigantic Bokaro Project could well have been utilised for the establishment of a medium-sized plant at Bokaro and three steel plants in the South. The serious problems of management which have been encountered in large steel plants could also have been obviated with such medium sized plants distributed in different parts of the country. The Salem steel plant would also have met the country's requirements of special alloy steel.

Power programmes

The allocation for power programmes which was originally fixed at Rs. 30·6 crores has been stepped up to Rs. 33·66 crores in the Revised Estimates. The work in respect of erection of Thermal Station at Ennore will gather considerable momentum in the next year and keeping this in view, a provision of Rs. 15 crores has been made for this Project. Funds on an adequate scale have been earmarked also for Kodayar and Parambikulam Hydro-Electric Schemes. On the whole there will be an addition of 235 MW. of installed capacity in the next year. Besides, it is expected that another 100 MW. generating set will also be commissioned at Neyveli Thermal station raising in capacity of 500 MW. We have also entered into an agreement with Mysore for purchase of power from Sharavathy to the extent of 300 million units during 1968. The Madras State Electricity Board will thus be in a position to meet any additional demand for power anywhere in the State in the coming year. Within the resources available, we have been able to provide only Rs. 6 crores at this stage for rural electrification. In 1965–66 and 1966–67 Government of India recognizing the importance of rural electrification programmes, had extended special assistance outside the Plan. Lift Irrigation Schemes produce immediate results in terms of increased production. Government of India should therefore recognise this and allocate additional funds.

With the provision of Rs. 160 lakhs for various programmes relating to roads in the Plan, we will be able to maintain the present pace of progress. Three hundred miles of bus route roads now under the control of the Panchayat Unions are proposed to be taken over by Government for maintenance thus providing relief to them and enabling them to concentrate on the maintenance of other less important roads. The Government's programme of nationalisation of bus routes, in terms of the policy announced in June last year, is also calculated to provide better facilities for transport. A provision of Rs. 230 lakhs has been made for capital outlay on programmes relating to State Transport Service and this will, among other things, enable 106 routes to be nationalised according to schedule. In response to the longstanding demand from Municipal Counsils, Government have also decided for the first time to give a special grant of Rs. 7·5 lakhs for maintenance of roads in municipalities, other than the Corporation. Special assistance to the extent of Rs. 47 lakhs in the form of loans and grants will also be extended to the Corporation in the coming year for the improvement of roads and construction of over-bridges in the City.

Education

Inclusive of committed expenditure, the povision for Education in the Budget Estimates for 1968–69 is about Rs. 56·28 crores representing 23 per cent of State's revenues. The Annual Plan for this sector provides on the whole for, 7,200 additonal teachers to cope with the enrolment envisaged in the age groups 6–11, 11–14 and 14–17. Keeping in view the need to make a reasonable provision for improvement of facilities in schools, Government have allocated Rs. 32 lakhs for construction of school buildings and Rs. 44 lakhs for provision of scientific equipment. Elementary Education having become free and compulsory throughout the State, the main efforts of the Government in this sphere will now be directed to qualitative improvement. Three thousand posts of higher grade teachers will be converted into secondary grade posts during 1968–69.

With a view to provide some incentive to teachers to acquire higher qualifications and thus serve pupils more efficiently, the Government have approved of a scheme for grant of two advance increments to teachers who acquire higher educational qualifications.

The Budget Estimates for 1968–69 provide for the opening of six new Government Arts Colleges in centres where the conditions laid down by the Government in respect of public contribution are fulfilled. Provision has also been made for opening degree courses in the colleges at Tiruvannamalai, Dindigul and Cheyyar. Experience has shown that the number of students seeking to join Pre-University courses in urban centres far exceeds the number of seats available and that the introduction of shift system would facilitate the admission of larger number of students. A more intensive utilisation of the laboratory and other facilities available in the existing

colleges will also be promoted. Government therefore propose to consider the question of introducing shift system in these colleges in consultation with the Universities. It is also proposed to make a start on construction of buildings for Madurai University and for this purpose a provision of Rs. 10 lakhs has been made in the Budget Estimates. In the wake of our decision last year to grant exemption from tuition fees for students in Pre-University classes, subject to certain income limits, the need has been felt for extending the concession to the Pre-technical course in Polytechnics which has been recognised by the University as equivalent to Pre-University Course. The Government have now decided to grant exemption from payment of tuition fees in "Pre-technical" classes in Polytechnics, subject to the same income limits as in the case of the Pre-University Course.

Welfare of Backward Classes

Together with committed expenditure, the total provision for Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes will be of the order of Rs. 651 lakhs in the Budget Estimates for 1968–69. Apart from continuing the existing schemes such as grant of scholarships and acquisition of house-sites, Government propose to make a start in the coming year with a scheme for grant of loans to persons belonging to Scheduled Castes to enable them to set up in new trades and professions. A provision of Rs. 1 lakh has been made for this purpose. The Government have also decided to supply one set of clothes to all children studying in elementary schools run by the Harijan Welfare Department at a cost of Rs. 3·8 lakhs and to enhance the boarding grants to Harijan hostels at an additional cost of Rs. 4·3 lakhs.

Under the agreement entered into by the Government of India with the Government of Ceylon, 5·25 lakhs of persons of Indian origin are expected to be repatriated to India in the course of the next fifteen years. Of this, about 10,000 families are expected to reach here in 1968–69.

We have taken the position that the funds required for the rehabilitation and welfare of the repatriates should be provided in full by the Government of India over and above the normal assistance available to us for the Plan, and I am glad to state that this position has also been accepted by the Government of India. We have already forwarded to the Government of India for approval a scheme for raising tea plantations over an extent of 3,750 acres in the Nilgiris district at a total cost of Rs. 3·75 crores. We have also formulated a scheme for settlement of repatriates on an area of 330 acres of land in Poosimalaikuppam in North Arcot district at a cost of about Rs. 10 lakhs. Schemes have also been drawn up for grant of loans to the repatriates for enabling them to settle down in trades suited to their capacity.

Under programmes relating to Medical, Health and Family Planning, though the Planning Commission had recommended a provision of only Rs. 220 lakhs, we have sought to keep the level of expenditure at Rs. 369 lakhs. The construction of additional buildings and provision of equipment for the three new Medical Colleges at Chingleput, Palayamkottai and Coimbatore constitute obviously the first charge on our resources. A provision of Rs. 77 lakhs has been made for these three Medical Colleges. With a provision of about Rs. 180 lakhs, of which Rs. 137 lakhs will be met by Central assistance over and above the normal assistance for our Plan, we have tried to ensure that there is no slackening in the pace of implementation of Family Planning programmes. The Government also attach importance to the development of Siddha system of medicine. Sanction has recently been accorded to the construction of a 100 bedded hospital for Indian System of Medicine at Arumbakkam. Government have also proposals under consideration for the opening of Siddha wings in all District headquarters hospitals. With the continuation of schemes for eradication of small-pox, malaria and filariasis, preventive aspects will be taken adequate care of. Government also propose to start soon a Cancer Control Pilot Project in collaboration with the World Health Organisation at Kancheepuram.

Water-supply and drainage

The pace of execution of Water-supply and Drainage Schemes relating to the Madras Corporation will be maintained at the same level as in the current year. But Government consider that it should be possible for the Corporation to meet a significant portion of the cost of these schemes by raising an open market loan as other major Corporations are doing. On the assumption that the Corporation itself will be able to meet the cost of Water-supply and Drainage Schemes next year to the extent of at least Rs. 75 lakhs, provision has been made in the Budget Estimates for 1968–69 for loan and grant assistance of Rs. 60 lakhs only to the Corporation for its normal Water-supply and Drainage Schemes. The House is aware of the proposal of the Government for finding permanent solution for the water-supply problem in the City by drawing water from the Cauvery System at Veeranam. Detailed estimates for this scheme have now been prepared. A provision of Rs. 25 lakhs at this stage has been made for this programme and the completion of the scheme will be accorded high priority in the Fourth Plan. Though the allocation for Water-supply and Drainage Schemes relating to other urban centres at Rs. 125 lakhs in the Annual Plan for 1968–69 may look small, in relation to current year's anticipated outlay of Rs. 155 lakhs, it should be remembered that the Planning Commission had proposed an outlay of only Rs. 120 lakhs for water-supply schemes inclusive of those of the

Corporation. Attention will be concentrated on completion of schemes in advanced stage of execution. The schemes for supply of water at Avadi, Wandiwash, Dindigul, Yercaud, Namakkal and Villivakkam and as also drainage schemes relating to Mannargudi and Tuticorin will be completed in the coming financial year.

Next year's Plan as emerging from the Budget Estimates will be of the order of Rs. 79·68 crores. Though this may look small in relation to what we expect to achieve in the current year, for a comparative assessment of the dimensions of the developmental programmes in the current year and next we should also take into account the agricultural developmental programmes which we propose to finance outside the Plan through funds obtained from institutional agencies. When these outlays are also included, as they should be, by and large, we would have maintained the pace of execution of developmental programmes at about the same level as in the current year. Central assistance has always been of crucial significance in determining the size of the Plan.

Budget Estimates

We have reason to feel aggrieved that we have not been given our due share of assistance and that even assistance in the agreed proportion had not been released in 1966–67 and 1967–68. The least that the Planning Commission should do is to make good in full the shortfall which has occurred in these two years and if possible, provide a measure of accelerated assistance having regard to the fact that many of our irrigation and power programmes are now in an advanced stage of execution. We have taken credit in our Budget Estimates for Central assistance of Rs. 47·9 crores for the Plan, as we are clearly entitled to the same though at this stage the Government of India have firmly committed themselves to a figure of only Rs. 42·9 crores.

The House will recall that the Budget Estimates for 1967–68 which I presented to this House in June last had envisaged a deficit on revenue account of Rs. 112 lakhs. The provision for subsidy on sale of foodgrains which was then provided for under the capital head "124. Capital Outlay on Schemes of Government Trading" has now been written back to revenue and this has increased the revenue expenditure by Rs. 5·10 crores. Notwithstanding this, we now place the revenue receipts in the current year at Rs. 227·95 crores and expenditure at Rs. 228·40 crores, revealing a revenue deficit of only Rs. 45 lakhs.

Thanks to the improvements under deposit and loan heads, it is seen that even though our original expectations of additional assistance from the Centre for the Plan have not materialised, it will be possible for us now to finance a bigger Plan of Rs. 88·10 crores as against Rs. 85·28 crores originally budgeted and at the same time close the year with an authorised ways and means advance of only Rs. 295 lakhs outstanding with the Reserve Bank as against Rs. 495 lakhs originally anticipated.

State Raffles

The Budget for 1968–69 after providing for a reasonable element of growth under all elastic sources of revenue such as Motor Vehicles Tax, Sales Tax and Electricity Duties, estimates the receipts on Revenue Account at Rs. 248·28 crores and expenditure at Rs. 247·54 crores, resulting in a small surplus of Rs. 74 lakhs. This surplus has been arrived at after providing for a sum of Rs. 7·24 crores to meet the element of subsidy on sale of foodgrains in areas in which the scheme is now in force. The budget estimates also fully reflect the incidence of city compensatory allowance (Rs. 75 lakhs), additional expenditure now involved in the extension of the scheme of city compensatory allowance to suburban areas, teachers in aided institutions and Madurai City (Rs. 40 lakhs) and increase in rates of dearness allowance sanctioned in November last.

While our position on revenue account does not cause concern, it will be only prudent to bear in mind that our ways and means position will be extremely difficult in the year to come on account of the large increase in repayments of loans to the Government of India and open market loan. It is therefore necessary to take some steps to harness the savings of our people for the purpose of economic development on new lines. While the existing schemes for mobilisation of small savings will be pursued with vigour, Government have felt it necessary also to draw up a scheme for State Raffles so as to enable even poor people to contribute to the development of the State. Details of the scheme will be finalised shortly and will be implemented early in the next financial year. We have taken credit under Unfunded Debt for a sum of Rs. 1 crore towards the anticipated net receipts (i.e.), receipts after payments of prizes and commission for authorised agents under the Raffle Scheme. I have no doubt that almost every family in our State will participate in the scheme and thus assist in the development of our State's economy.

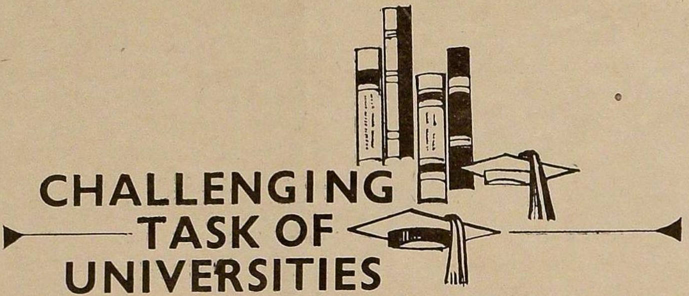
New Finance Commission—its tasks

We have had four Finance Commissions. Their efforts have been mainly directed towards assessing the needs of the States for maintenance of existing institutions and services and providing resources just adequate for their maintenance. The needs of development have been left to be taken care of entirely by discretionary assistance from the Centre, thus reducing the States to a position of absolute dependence on the Centre. With the decision to have a new Fourth Plan from 1969–70 the need for appointing a new Finance Commission has been widely recognised.

May I take this opportunity therefore to suggest that the terms of reference of the new Finance Commission should be widened to cover, among other things, a searching review of the constitutional provisions relating to distribution of resources ? This review could be undertaken by the Finance Commission without prejudice to any interim report which may become necessary for them to make, well in advance of the commencement of the new Fourth Plan, on the limited question of providing resources by devolution for the maintenance expenditure of the three annual Plans covering the interregnum between the Third Plan and the Fourth. There is no reason to apprehend that the review which I have proposed is in any way calculated to weaken the Centre or impair the unity of the country. On the contrary, with provision of larger resources to the States on a statutory basis so as to equip them better to discharge their responsibilities, there will be less opportunities for friction and mutual recrimination between the State and Centre in day-to-day financial relations and it will become possible to evolve a fraternal and fruitful partnership between them in all matters of common concern to the nation.

BUDGET AT A GLANCE

(1)	*Accounts,* 1966–67. (2)	*Budget Estimate* (*Revised*) 1967–68. (3)	*Revised Estimate,* 1967–68. (4)	*Budget Estimate* 1968–69. (5)
		(FIGURES IN LAKHS OF RUPEES)		
REVENUE ACCOUNT				
Revenue Receipts	1,94,55	2,16,07	2,27,95	2,48,28
Expenditure on Revenue Account. ..	2,01,43	2,17,19	2,28,40	2,47,54
Revenue Deficit (—) or Surplus (+) ..	— 6,88	— 1,12	— 45	+ 74
ALL ACCOUNTS				
Receipts—				
Opening Balance	7,35	6,00	6,00	55
Revenue Surplus	..	..	..	74
Loans from the Government of India.	49,60	57,73	53,11	54,82
Open Market Loan	13,29	18,00	18,05	20,00
Inter-State Settlements (Net) ..	..	1,81	1,81	2,34
Loans from Autonomous Bodies ..	11,19	17,07	19,17	24,92
Ways and Means Advances	— 3,75	4,95	2,95	2,00
Deposits	4,53	8,43	12,27	18,80
Total ..	82,21	1,13,99	1,13,36	1,24,17
Disbursements—				
Revenue Deficit	6,88	1,12	45	..
Capital Expenditure	46	32,06	35,56	21,43
Repayment of Government of India Loans.	25,29	33,12	29,43	43,16
Loans and Advances (Net)	29,12	20,88	26,48	23,65
Repayment of Loans from Autonomous Bodies.	14,40	15,79	10,23	21,45
Repayments of Open Market Loans..	6	10,47	10,66	13,83
Land Ceiling Compensation Bonds (Net).	..	...	...	10
Closing Balance	6,00	55	55	55
Total ..	82,21	1,13,99	1,13,36	1,24,17



CHALLENGING TASK OF UNIVERSITIES

DR. ZAKIR HUSAIN
President of India

(*Speech delivered on 5th January* 1968 *on the occasion of laying the foundation stone for Madurai University Buildings.*)

Mr. Chancellor, Mr. Vice-Chancellor and Friends,

I am grateful to the authorities of the Madurai University for inviting me to this auspicious function of laying the foundation stone of the University buildings. By itself, it is a rare privilege and an honour to be thus associated with the development of this University; and you have crowned it, in keeping with the great tradition of hospitality of the Tamil people, by conferring upon me a degree which I am not at all sure I deserve but of which I shall ever feel proud. I am deeply touched by the affection which all of you bear for me and which is symbolised in this function which I shall ever remember. And to show you how deeply I feel it, let me say it again in Tamil.

நான் என்றும் மறவாத வகையில் நீங்கள் காட்டும்
அன்பிற்கும் பாசத்திற்கும் விருந்தோம்பலுக்கும்
பெரிதும் கடமைப்பட்டு இருக்கிறேன்.

" I am deeply grateful for your love, kindness and hospitality which I shall never forget. "

A wise decision

It was a very wise decision of the Government of Madras to establish a University in Madurai, the second largest city in the State. It is one of the few places in India which manifestly deserves this honour. It has the famous temple of Meenakshi which is one of the finest specimens of Indian architecture. It has been the centre of Tamil culture and civilisation for the last two thousand years; and it was in Madurai that three successive Tamil Akadamies flourished under the patronage of Tamil Kings and attracted many great scholars of the South. It has also a long historical tradition and was the capital of the Pandya Empire of ancient times. It has always been a centre of trade and industry. In ancient times, it used to carry on extensive trade with Greece and Rome; and today it is the centre of the modern textile industry whose products have distinguished themselves, not only in India, but also in foreign markets. The establishment of this University at Madurai thus brings together the spiritual and the temporal, the old and the new, the local and the universal, and provides the atmosphere necessary for a University. You are also very fortunate in having, as your first Vice-Chancellor, Prof. T. P. Meenakshi Sundaram, an eminent scholar of Tamil, under whose able guidance, the University is expected to make a material contribution to the further development of Tamil and to its use in all branches of learning and at all stages. I have no doubt that a great future lies before this University and I wish you all success in this noble undertaking.

I would also like to compliment the people and the Government of Madras on the great work they have been doing to improve education. The extent of voluntary enterprise, the generous contributions made by local communities for educational purposes, and the large band of dedicated and competent teachers which you have, shows a faith and dedication to education and a determination to improve it, which are unique in India. You have given a lead to the country in several fields. You were the first to levy a library cess and

promote a library movement. You were also the first to develop a very big programme of school meals and of providing free books and uniforms to children in primary schools. You also took the lead in making all education free at the secondary stage. Science education has taken deep roots in your area—I find, for instance, that about 56 per cent of the students of this University are studying in science courses. Unlike some other States, you have not established many Universities; but the elaborate preparations which you have made for the purpose and the careful planning you have done make your approach to the problem unique and significant. This very university, for instance, first began as University Centre, which was raised to the status of a University only after the situation was ripe; and the caution exercised in its creation will, I am sure, be matched by a liberal provision of resources for its growth. I wish that other States in India also would adopt similar policies.

The challenge

Universities in India are facing tremendous challenges today. Some of these are a legacy of the past. For instance, they have the onerous and difficult task of shaking off the heavy load of their early tradition which gives an undue prominence to external and terminal examinations and to strive to substitute the desire of the average student to 'pass' an exmination for a genuine awakening of curiosity and dedication to the pursuit of truth and excellence.

A second group of their challenges arises from the role they are expected to play in national development in an underdeveloped country like ours which is trying to modernise itself. They have to serve as Dr. Saiyidain has pointed out, as the 'conscience of the nation' and to carry on a sustained national debate–sympathetic, objective and fearless—regarding our national goals and the programmes that are being developed to realise them. This responsibility becomes all the greater in the absence of an enlightened public opinion. They must also actively participate in programmes of national development by evolving a plan of national service for their students with a view to creating in them a sense of social responsibility and a commitment to nation building. It is their main responsibility to develop the languages of the people—if Indian Universities do not take it up, who will? They cannot also rest content by blaming the schools for sending up students of poor quality. It is their imperative duty to take interest in schools and to undertake concrete programmes for improving school education itself.

A third group of challenges arises out of the period of excessive stresses and strains through which we are passing. The old values and organizational forms which held society together are being eroded; and as there is no effective programme to replace them by a new sense of social responsibility suited to modern needs, innumerable signs of social disorganisation are evident everywhere. These include strikes, increasing lawlessness, violence and disregard for public property, communal tensions and troubles, and growth of local, regional, linguistic and State loyalties which tend to make the people forget 'India' herself. It is natural but unfortunate that these should affect higher education which is a sensitive and significant sector of national life. Student unrest, which is thus a reflection of this wider social malaise, presents a difficult challenge. It disturbs and often paralyses the functioning of the educational system itself and its recent intensification augurs ill for the future.

You can, therefore, see how crucial these days are for our Universities; and the crisis becomes worse because the resources available to them have been continuously dwindling as their challenges have been mounting. For instance, the cost per student in Government Arts Colleges was Rs. 354 in 1882 when national income per head was only Rs. 20 and prices were so low. But even at present, the cost per student is only about Rs. 400, in spite of the rise in prices and the increase in national income per head which now stands at Rs. 425. In fact, never were our Universities confronted with challenges of such magnitude from different quarters as they now are and never were their resources so inadequate as they happen to be at present.

Role of politicians

I am not dismayed either by the magnitude of these challenges or by the inadequacies of our resources. In my view, the Central theme in all education is to enable Man to face his challenges boldly and squarely. I, therefore, believe that education thrives on challenges and that its quality improves in proportion to their magnitude. My main object in referring to these factors is, therefore, to make an appeal to all concerned to rise to the occasion and to do their best to improve higher education. Let us remember its significance. "If the Universities discharged their duties adequately", said Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, "it is well with the nation and with the people". If the present challenges to higher education are not met, social disorganisation and national disintegration may be accelerated. But if they are met fully and in time, social cohesion will be strengthened, national integration will be promoted and the pace of national development will be quickened.

In order to enable the Universities to meet these challenges, I appeal to Government, Central and State, to provide resources on a liberal scale. Enrolments in higher education are now increasing at about ten per cent per year; and if the University system is to keep abreast of these, to clear at least partially—

the backlog of the past, and to improve standards, our investment in higher education, for several years to come, will have to be about twice the rate of the increase in enrolments. This is basically and inescapably the responsibility of Governments.

I also appeal to politicians to take a long range view of the problem and not to live solely for the immediate present. It is their duty to help the system of higher education to function smoothly and to grow effectively. If they cannot do so, let them at least leave the Universities and Colleges to function in peace and not try to convert them into foci of discontent deliberately fostered for narrow and short-term political ends.

Advantages and handicaps

But as a teacher, I would like to address my most ardent appeal to teachers and students. I do realise that additional resources and peace are needed. But I cannot also forget that the results will depend, not so much on the additional resources or opportunities as on the use which teachers and students make of these resources and opportunities. It is, therefore, their primary responsibility to improve higher education by creating a climate of discipline, dedication, hard work and relentless pursuit of truth. In this, the lead must come from the teachers because of the quality of education and its contribution to national development and their indentification with the interests of the students are entrusted to their charge. On their part, the students also have to realise their responsibilities. They are the members of the University Community; and it is therefore their duty to set an example of responsible and civilized life and to eschew all violence. I concede that they have several difficulties and problems. But violence and anti-social behaviour can only make these worse. These problems can be solved only through peaceful and constitutional methods, through discussion and persuasion, and through the democratic methods of give and take. It is these which they should adopt in dealing with their problems and thereby strengthen the forces of democracy and create an atmosphere conducive to national development.

Yours is a young University; and as compared with the older ones, you have both advantages as well as handicaps. It is true that you do not have their ancient tradition and established repute. But it is no small compensation to be free from their inherited conservatism and unshakable red-tape and to be able to venture out in search of " fresh woods and pastures new ". I am happy to find that you are already trying to get out of the ivory tower existence which is so common in the older Universities and that you are trying to develop programmes which will relate you intimately to your local community. From this point of view, I commend your proposal to establish a Centre for Advanced Specialisation in botanical studies and research on medicinal plants to exploit the varied flora which is available on the Western Ghats in your neighbourhood and your proposal to specialise in industrial chemistry pertaining to textiles and dyes which can be of immense use to the most important modern industry of this region. I feel equally happy about your proposals to establish advanced studies and research centres in Tamil and in South Indian History and Archaeology. I request you to carry this idea still further in other walks of life and make this University a Centre for the development of this region; and side by side, you should also tackle some problems of national significance. These are significant undertakings in which I wish you all success.

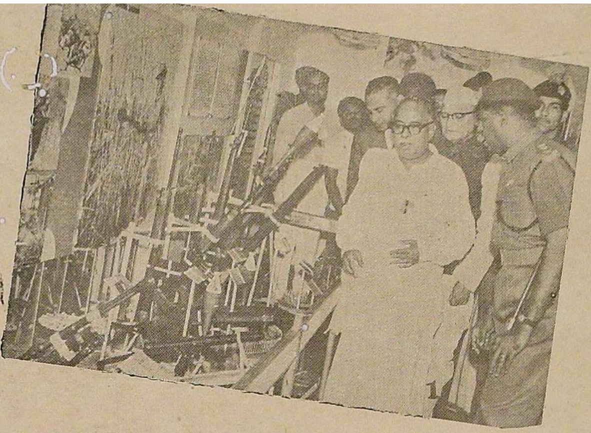
Friends, I do not want to take more of your time.

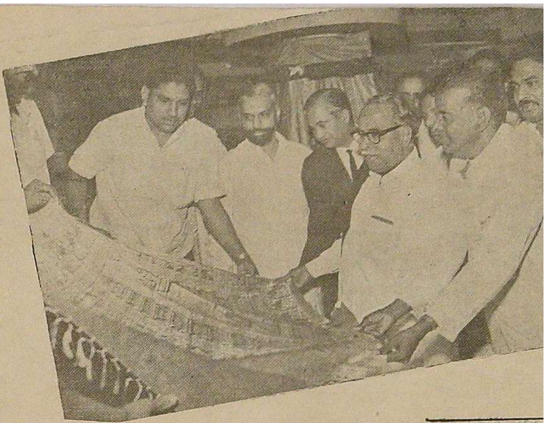
இந்த விழாவிற்கு என்னை அழைத்ததற்கும்
எனக்குப் பட்டம் அளித்ததற்கும் என் நன்றி

" I thank you for inviting me to this function and for giving me this degree. "

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

The total number of towns, villages and hamlets electrified in Madras State as on 1st January 1968 was 27,672 and the total number of pumpsets given power connection was 326,153.





FUNCTIONS IN THE CITY

1 Thiru C N Annadurai Chief Minister of Tamilnad, who inaugurated the Meter Guage Defence Exhibition at Madras Beach station on 7-1-1968, is going round the exhibition. Thiru K K Shah, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting presided

2 Chief Minister of Tamilnad declared open the Kuralagam at Esplanade and Thiru M Karunanidhi Minister for Public Works inaugurated "Khadi Kraft"—Khadi and Village Industries Emporium on 14-1-1968 Thiru M. Muthuswamy Minister for Local Administration presided They are going round the emporium.

3 Periyar E. V. Ramasamy Leader of the Dravida Kazhagam unveiled the portrait of Thiru C N Annadurai, Chief Minister of Tamilnad, on 2-2-1968 at a function organised by the Tamilnad Secretariat Association to commemorate the provision of drinking water inside the Secretariat from Red Hills through the good efforts of the Chief Minister

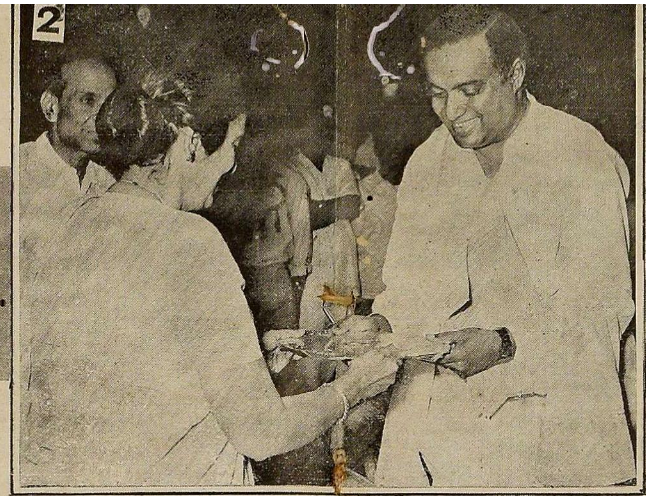
4. Thiru C. N. Annadurai is presenting a memento to Thiru S S. Vasan Chairman of the Pageant Committee which organised the pageant on 3-1-1968 during the Second World Tamil Conference at a function arranged on 12-2-1968 to felicitate the members of the Committee.

5. The Siddha System of Dispensary was inaugurated at the Secretariat on 29-1-1968 by Thiru S J. Sadiq Pasha, Minister for Public Health.

6. Thirumathi Sathiavani Muthu, Minister for Harijan Welfare and Information, with the members of the Madras Women's Cottage Industries Central Co-operative Society on the occasion of the Anniversary of the Society held on 4-2-1968 at Madras.

7. Thiru C. N. Annadurai, is addressing the gathering at the Tamilnad Day celebrated at the Indian International Trade and Industries Fair on 22-2-1968. Sardar Ujjal

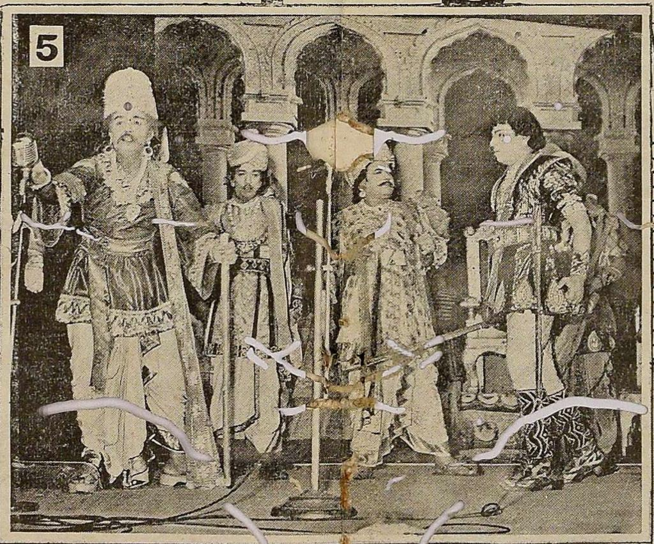
small savings cultural programme



The Small Savings Cultural Show was held at Nehru Stadium, Madras on 25th February 1968 for the promotion of Small Savings. Tanjore Art plates were presented to all those who have taken active part in the programme.

1. Thiru M. G. Ramachandran M.L.A., Vice-Chairman, State Advisory Board on Small Savings, is receiving the Governor on his arrival. The Governor presided over the function.

2. Sardarini Ujjal Singh is presenting a Tanjore plate to Thiru A. L. Srinivasan who has taken active part in arranging the Show.



3. Sardarini Ujjal Singh is presenting a Tanjore plate to Thirumathi Vijayakumari, Cine Artiste, who participated in the Cultural Show.

4. Cine Artistes Muthuraman and Manimala in "Puthu Vazhvu" staged on the occassion.

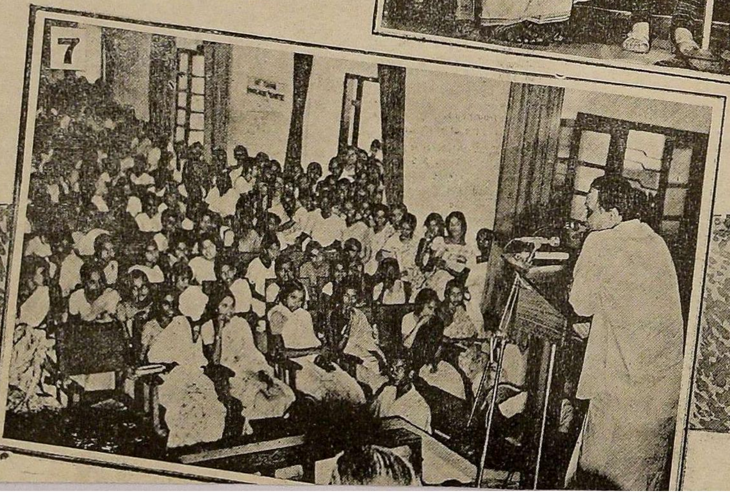
5. A scene from "Thamizh Engal Uyir" staged on the occasion by Thiru S. S. Rajendran and Party.

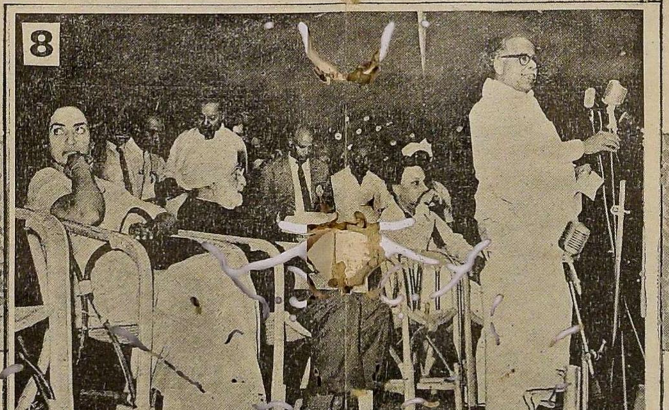
6. Hema Malini in a dance pose.

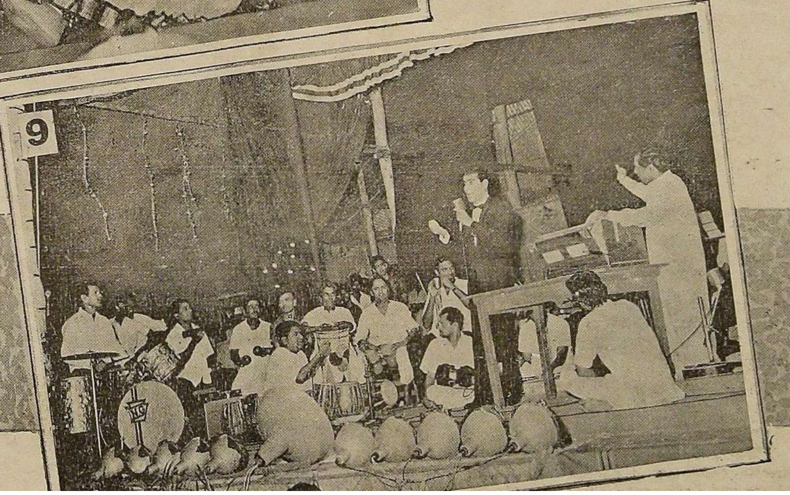
7. Thiru M. G. Ramachandran addressing the student gathering at S. I. E. T. College premises on 17-2-1968 in connection with the Inauguration of Mobile Post Office for augmenting Small Savings among students.

8. Thiru C. N, Annadurai, Chief Minister, addressing the gathering at the Cultural Show on 25-2-1968.

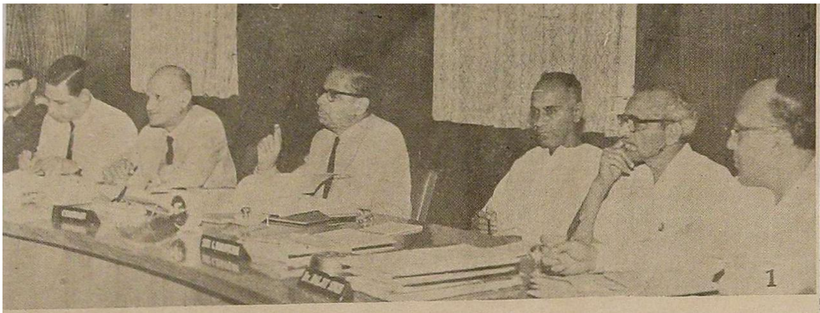
9. Thiru Chandrababu, Cine Artiste, rendering a song with M. S. Viswanathan and Party at the Cultural Show.







Meetings in the CITY



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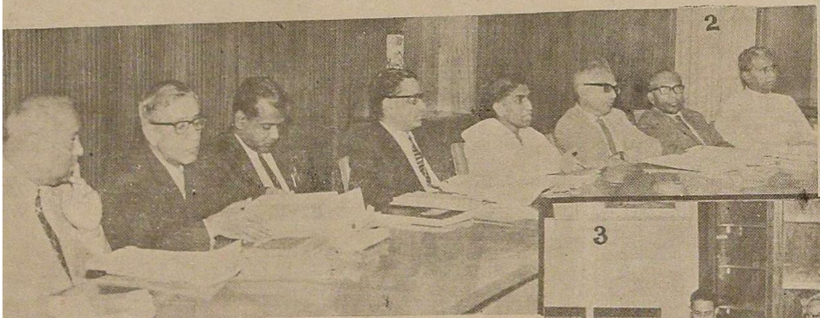

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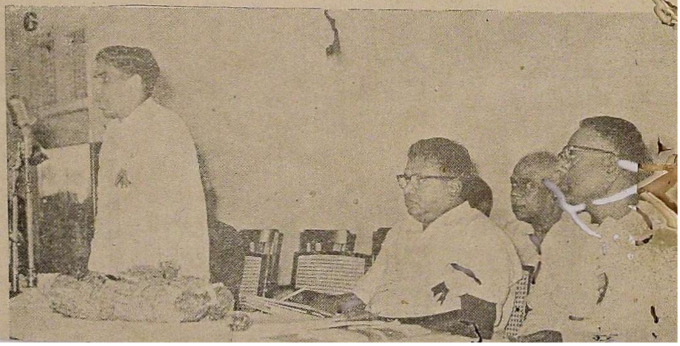

6

1. & 2. The National Commission on Labour under the Chairmanship of Dr P B Gajendragadkar (first row—fourth from left) had its sittings in Madras on 19th and 20th February 1968. Thiru S. Madhavan, Minister for Labour (second row—fifth from left) gave evidence before the Commission on 20-2-1968.

3 The Cabinet Sub-Committee meeting on Family Planning was held on 23rd February 1968, under the Chairmanship of Thiru C. N. Annadurai, Chief Minister. Thiru V. R Nedunchezhiyan, Minister for Education and Industries, Thiru S. J. Sadiq Pasha, Minister for Public Health and Thiru M. Muthuswamy, Minister for Local Administration and Officers attended the meeting.

4. Sardarini Ujjal Singh distributing certificates to Hospital Welfare Voluntary Workers at the 44th meeting of the Guild of Service held on 10-2-1968 at Madras. The Governor Sardar Ujjal Singh presided.

5. Thiru S. J. Sadiq Pasha, Minister for Public Health, presided over the meeting of the State Tuberculosis Association held on 27-2-1968.

6. Thiru S. Madhavan, Minister for Law and Co-operation, delivering the inaugural speech at the Conference of Departmental Officers and Representatives of Co-operative Institutions held on

OUR BOUNDEN DUTY

THIRU V. V. GIRI
Vice-President of India

It is two decades, since the greatest apostle of truth and non-violence, Mahatma Gandhi was removed from our midst by a senseless assassin and thus the light not only of India, but in a way of the entire world was extinguished. We are still unable to believe that he is no longer with us. His mortal coils might have perished but his soul and his spirit is always alive and is ever with us, the people of India. His sacrifices towards the brotherhood of man, his universal love, his sense of detachment, and self-abnegation will remain eternal. His armour was his honest thought, and simple truth, his highest skill. His conscience was his strong retreat. As a rare personage who practised whatever he preached, his name will always be remembered and will continue to inspire and guide humanity for ages to come. He was the greatest personage of our times and he has indeed found a place amongst the greatest martyrs of humanity like Jesus Christ.

Inspiring leadership

It is but fitting that we should observe martyrdom day on 30th January and it is a great occasion for introspection and retrospection as well as rededication. It is a time for solemn appraisal. Let us look back on the years that have rolled by, years of hope and tears, ups and downs, omissions and commissions, fulfilments and frustrations, stumbling blocks and stepping stones.

The martyrs of India have, by dint of their monumental services and supreme sacrifices under Gandhiji's inspiring leadership, carved out for themselves an abiding niche in the annals of Mother India.

No one other than Bapu could have worked the miracle of changing in the course of a short span of a quarter of a century in removing the curse of untouchability in all its forms. He held that humanity could never be safe unless nations of the world adopted righteousness and truth in solving mutual differences and without a desire for territorial aggrandisement.

On the eve of our Independence, Mahatmaji stressed that he would not rest content unless and until economic freedom is assured to everyone in the country. This task has yet to be accomplished. It is only by following his teachings and philosophy can we be able to attain these cherished goals.

Even before United Nations Organisation was thought of he stood for a world order wherein nations should live in amity and concord and settle all their differences through the spirit of non-violence and truth by methods of conciliation, mediation and arbitration. If only he had been spared to the world for some more time, I am confident he would have set the pace for ushering in a world order where peace and goodwill would reign among all.

Now it is our bounden duty to rededicate ourselves to the service of the nation by following the sacrifices of Gandhiji and other martyrs who have laid their lives at the altar of freedom so that India may attain its proper place in the comity of nations.

Hospital for Indian Systems of Medicine

The Government has sanctioned the construction of a 100 bed hospital for the Indian Systems of Medicine at Arumbakkam herbal farm of Indian Medicine near Madras at an estimated cost of Rs. 8·18 lakhs—*Source : G.O. Ms. No.* 411, *Public Works Department, dated* 23*rd February* 1968.

We need Global Strategy of Development.

THIRUMATHI INDIRA GANDHI
Prime Minister of India

The elimination of poverty and the deveolpment of impoverished regions are now widely accepted as international obligations. It is imperative that the international community find ways and means to intervene effectively in defining the responsibility of economic power, in matching resources, to needs and in guiding economic forces towards progress and peace.

Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates to this conference,

May I extend a warm welcome to all of you who have come from many countries to take part in this great assembly of nations in a joint endeavour to build a better world. We had greatly looked forward to the distinguished presence of Secretary-General U Thant who more than anyone else has helped us in our moment of despondency and urged us to remain true to the ideals embodied in the Charter of the United Nations over which he presides with such distinction. It is a matter of deep regret to us all that he is not here with us today to launch this truly historic conference which is no less important for the peace of the world and the well-being of the vast majority of its people than any other issue confronting us today.

Spirit of the country

I am glad you have chosen this country for your deliberations. Here you will find the problems which all struggling nations face, and you will see them if I may say so, projected on a giant screen. You will see them not as statistics but in the expectant glances of our bright eyed young people and in the anxious faces of their elders. We are conscious that we bear the mark of the storms we have weathered. I hope you will also recognise the spirit of the country, a spirit which has seen our people through countless difficulties, natural calamities, man made complexities. It is this spirit which has inspired our great men through the ages. Some of our problems are centuries old, and some are very new–parched land and bursting cities, illiteracy and brain drain.

For more than a hundred years, the most sensitive and perceptive minds in our country have been obsessed with poverty and have striven to remove its causes. Our fight for freedom was itself part of the greater fight to liberate our people from the grip of poverty and the fear of economic insecurity. The vastness of our country makes the challenges so much the greater. Whatever we do, must be done for 560,000 villages. In the last fifteen years, we have almost doubled agricultural production, created 30 million jobs, put 45 million more children in schools, added 20 years to the life-span, and established a base of heavy industries but we cannot even take time off to think of this as achievement. We must go on with our work, for what is unfinished is so much larger than what is done.

In our unending labour, our consolation is that we are not alone. Through the long hard struggle for political independence, we were keenly aware of other nations and of peoples who also were oppressed by their fellow-men. We shared with them the indignities and humiliations of discrimination and exploitation, of this was forged a kinship. It has been our hope and constant endeavour that India should work not only for herself but for the larger world community. At the greatest moment of our lives, when we became free and sovereign, my father pledged us to the service of India. He said, " The service of India means the service of the millions who suffer. It means the ending of poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunity........And so we have to labour and to work and work hard, to give reality to our dreams. Those dreams are for India, but they are also for the world, for, all nations and peoples are too closely knit together today, for any one of them to imagine that it can live

apart. Peace has been said to be indivisible, so is freedom, so is prosperity now, and so also is disaster in this One World that can no longer be split into isolated fragments".

Peace and prosperity

The United Nations was established twenty-three years ago to keep world peace and promote human prosperity. The juxtaposition of peace and prosperity is not a contrivance for stating moral precepts. The two are indissolubly linked together. Without peace there can be no prosperity for any people, rich or poor. And yet, there can be no peace without erasing the harshness of the growing contrast between the rich and the poor. Unless we sense this urgency and use our energy to eradicate the economic causes which make for conflict, men and women will be impelled to revolt, and to use violent means to bring about change.

Wherever a wide gulf has divided the small section of the rich from the vast masses of the poor, the State has either imposed a forced peace on the opposing camps or faced instability from within. What has been true within a nation is equally valid for the international community. Apart from reducing the inequalities within their social structures, the developing nations must adopt modern technology to create a new balance of benefits to all their citizens. In this endeavour, can we not apply to the problems of the world community the accumulated experience of some of the member States of the United Nations who are now in the vanguard of progress ? Can we not co-operate to give meaning and substance to the very concept of a world community? These are the questions before this Conference.

Hope reawakened

This is not the first occasion for the United Nations to address itself to the problems of world poverty and hunger. The Charter of this great Organisation calls upon it to work for the removal of want. To achieve this objective, a number of international organisations were set up. In December 1961, the General Assembly declared the Sixties to be the Decade of Development. In June 1964, the first UN Conference on Trade and Development adopted its Final Act, a blueprint drawn up to achieve a better balance in international economic relationships. But we find that concrete action has fallen far short of its declaration. In the meantime, year by year, the needs of the developing nations are becoming more acute, more urgent.

Some success has of course been achieved. Funds raised by diverse methods have been invested in the process of development. Difficulties have been studied in depth and the continuing machinery of this Conference has been engaged in a search for solutions. Under the able guidance of its distinguished Secretary-General, the Secretariat has produced valuable documents which I am sure you will find useful. The Group of '77' has even prepared a modest though practical programme of action. Naturally, hope is reawakened by the presence of so many distinguished statesmen from different parts of the world. But we are also haunted by the fear that historic opportunities to set the world community firmly on the road to peace and prosperity might again be missed.

Are these fears altogether groundless ? The Development Decade is drawing to a close. During the last years, most Member States have laboured, individually or collectively, to promote economic advancement in under-developed countries. An average growth rate of 4·6 per cent per annum has been achieved, but it dwindles to a mere 2 per cent, if we take into account the increases in population . Anyhow, the average growth rate is at best an imperfect measure of social and economic development. A much surer guide is the per capita income, on which the efforts so far made have had little impact. It is the human aspect—the opportunity for men and women everywhere to lead a fuller life—which is of the utmost importance. So long as the fundamental rights of millions of people in regard to employment, food, shelter and other needs remain unsatisfied, so long will their urge to rise to their full stature and serve their fellowmen remain unfulfilled.

Economic co-operation

This situation is a source of anxiety. The goal is distant. But impatience and dissatisfaction sap our will to preserve. Those who look upon development assistance as repayable charity will inevitably miss the expected gratitude from its beneficiaries. Those who view it as investment to earn political support or to collect dividends or to promote trade will be disappointed with the meagre returns. At the same time, growing numbers in the developing countries are beginning to look upon external capital and know-how, not as aids to their own strength and achievement of economic freedom, but as bonds which increase their dependence on dominant economies. We must all plead guilty to being tempted by the illusion that small efforts can yield big results. This is why we became disenchanted, and international economic co-operation is the first casualty. Thus domestic pressures mount. Our affluent friends seek to curtail their contribution to development. In turn the recipients of aid retreat inwards.

Sovereign nations are gathered here. But in some cases the structure of their mutual economic relationship has been inherited from their colonial past. We are all familiar with the part colonialism has played in the exploitation of dependent countries. The dominant powers introduced modern science as industry to

agricultural lands. But they developed only those segments of dependent economies which met metropolitan needs. They did not build the economic base for the development of material and human resources and of self-generating growth.

Today the rich nations find it more rewarding to invest their savings in their own security, in the advance of their technology, or even in establishing contacts with distant planets. They find it more interesting to trade amongst themselves than with the developing nations. Their markets and profit pattens are protected by tariff and non-tariff barriers. The efforts of the less developed countries to process their natural products and increase their share of international trade in manufactured and processed goods are thus frustrated. The continuous invention of synthetic substitutes further deprives poor nations of the resources they could derive from the use of their products.

Gap keeps growing

Thus, the gap keeps growing. The technological and scientific advances achieved by industrial nations accelerate this process. While industrial nations naturally use their resources to improve their technology, developing nations do not have even the means to borrow it. Even so, modern technology offers to the developing nations the possibility of avoiding the earlier stages of development and thus overcoming the challenge of poverty.

How can this possibility be realised? How can nations, now embarking on the difficult task of modernising their economies, be helped to telescope their industrial effort — spread over two to three generations in most advanced countries — into a decade or two? How can they mobilise the immense capital needed for investment in developmental projects, while making at least some provision for social welfare? How long can the hope of a minimum improvement in the standard of personal consumption be postponed, when the people are so conscious of their rights as well as of the grim realities of their comparative situations? How can economic activities meet the requirements of efficiency and be geared to the achievement of rapid advance, while ensuring the dignity of the human being and guaranteeing to the individual full enjoyment of his fundamental rights?

Advanced nations' responsibilities

These conflicts cannot be resolved in a day or even in a decade. Their solution demands patience, understanding, right motivation and above all, a far greater effort and bigger sacrifices than we have so far volunteered. Poverty corrodes the spirit of the poor and weakens their will to overcome it. The wealth of the prosperous grows in isolation and does not provide support to those who need it. The world economy has no built in corrective. Economic processes must therefore be guided by a moral purpose and directed towards desirable ends by the political will of the international community. Otherwise only those nations which have inherited economic advantage from historical accidents can hope to achieve the maximum gains within the area of their political control.

Responsibility for development must primarily be shouldered by the developing nations themselves. Political domination over the process of development by nations which wield economic power is inconsistent with the provisions of the Charter to which we all subscribe. What we need is a global strategy of development, an integrated programme of international co-operation, which outlines convergent measures to be undertaken by every Member State. The elimination of poverty and the development of impoverished regions are now widely accepted as international obligations. In order to discharge them, it is imperative that the international community finds ways and means to

The Second United Nations Conference on Trade and Development was inaugurated by the Prime Minister, Thirumathi Indira Gandhi in the new Convention Hall of Ashoka Hotel, New Delhi, on February 1, 1968.

intervene effectively in defining the responsibilty of economic power, in matching resources to needs, and in guiding economic forces towards progress and peace.

Perils of weakness

Distinguished delegates assembled here have the experience of the last seven years of the Development Decade to guide them in their deliberations. Seven years is too short a period for mankind to tire of despair in this unprecedented endeavour. On the contrary, any shortcomings and inadequacies should spur us to a bigger and bolder effort. Remember, millions of people hopefully await on your decision—the growers of jute, copra and cocoa, the miners of manganese and tin, the spinners and the weavers, to mention only a few. Their future is at stake, their own livelihood and the lives of their children, as also the capacity of their governments to provide the base for development.

The consequences of failure are too terrible to contemplate. Years ago Rabindranath Tagore wrote, "Power has to be made secure not only against power, but also against weakness for there lies the perils of its losing balance. The weak are as great a danger for the strong as quicksand for an elephant. They do not assist progress because they do not resist, they only drag down. The people who grow accustomed to wield absolute power over others are apt to forget that by so doing they generate an unseen force which some day rends that power into pieces." The question before the advanced nations is not whether they can afford to help the developing nations, but whether they can afford not to do so.

Poverty cannot be the destiny of the majority of mankind. I believe we have the power and the wisdom to give all these people new hope. With this faith I inaugurate the Second Conference of the United Nations on Trade and Development—*Inaugural speech delivered at the Second United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at New Delhi on February* 1, 1968.

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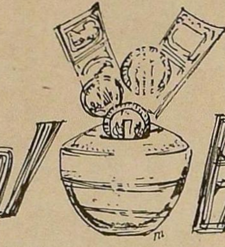
I, T. V. Vasudevan, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

T. V. VASUDEVAN,

1st March 1968. *Signature of Publisher.*



சிறு சேமிப்பும் சமுதாய நலனும்

[தமிழக முதலமைச்சர் மாண்புமிகு திரு. சி. என். அண்ணாதுரை அவர்கள் 1968-ம் வருடம் சனவரி மாதம் 6-ம் தேதி அன்று ராஜாஜி மன்றத்தில் தொழிலதிபர்களுக்கு அளிக்கப்பட்ட தேநீர் விருந்தில் ஆற்றிய உரை.]

சிறு சேமிப்பு இயக்கத்தின் துணைத் தலைவர் திரு. எம். ஜி. ராமச்சந்திரன் அவர்களே, நண்பர்களே, உங்களையெல்லாம் இங்கு வரவழைத்தது வழக்கமாக உங்களிடத்தில் எடுத்துச் சொல்கின்ற வேண்டுகோளை மீண்டும் எடுத்துச் சொல்வதற்காகத்தான். நீங்களும் அதை தெரிந்து தான் இங்கு வந்திருக்கிறீர்கள். சிறு சேமிப்பைப் பற்றி நான் அதிகமாக வலியுறுத்தி சொல்லத் தேவையில்லை. அதை எல்லோரும் ஏற்றுக் கொள்கிறார்கள். அதை வெற்றிகரமாக்க, வெற்றிகரமாக நிறைவேற்றுவதற்கு உங்களைப் போன்ற பெரியவர்கள் ஒத்துழைக்க வேண்டும்.

திட்டம் வெற்றிபெற

சர்க்கார் பணம் கேட்கிறார்கள், சர்க்காராக இருப்பதாலே கேட்கிறார்கள் என்று மக்கள் ஏக்கத்தோடு கவனிக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் சிறு சேமிப்பைப் பொறுத்த வரையில் இதனால் திரட்டப்படும் பணம் சமுதாயத்தின் நலனுக்காக, சமுதாயத்தை சீர் செய்வதற்காக பயன்படுகிறது என்பதை மக்கள் உணரும்படி செய்ய வேண்டும். அப்படி உணருவார்களேயானால் இந்த இயக்கத்திற்கு மேலும் ஆதரவு பெருகும்.

தொழிலதிபர்களாகிய உங்களுக்கு சிறு சேமிப்பில் முதலீடு செய்யப்படும் முதலீட்டிற்கு வட்டி விகிதம் குறைவு என்பது தெரியும். சிறு சேமிப்பு இயக்கம் என்பது பலதரப்பட்ட மக்களுடைய ஒத்துழைப்பைக் கொண்டு பின்னப்பட வேண்டிய ஒரு இயக்கமாகும். ஆகவே வட்டியைப்பற்றி நீங்கள் எண்ணிப்பார்க்கத் தேவையில்லை, எண்ணிப்பார்க்க மாட்டீர்கள் என்று கருதுகிறேன். சாதாரணமாக தொழிற்சாலையிலே பணியாற்றுபவர்கள், ஆசிரியர்களாக உள்ளவர்கள், படத் துறையிலே பணியாற்றுபவர்கள் இப்படிப்பட்ட மக்கள் இதில் ஈடுபடுவார்களேயானால் இந்த திட்டம் வெற்றியுடன் பணியாற்றும்.

நமது துணைத் தலைவர் அவர்கள் அடுத்த வருடத்தில் 50 முதல் 60 கோடி ரூபாய் அளவுக்கு இந்த திட்டத்தின் மூலம் கிடைக்கும் என்று சொன்னதைக் கேட்ட பொழுது கொஞ்ச நேரத்திற்கு முன்பு சாப்பிட்ட, இனிப்பு திரும்ப நாக்கிற்கு வருகிறது. உண்மையிலேயே நாம் திட்டமிட்டு பணியாற்றினால் அவர் சொன்ன அளவு திரட்டுவது நடக்கக் கூடிய ஒரு காரியம் தான்.

இந்த சிறு சேமிப்புக்கு என்று ஒவ்வொரு ஊரிலும் சென்று பள்ளி மாணவர்களையும், கல்லூரி மாணவர்களையும், ஆசிரியர்களையும் சந்தித்து அவர்களிடம் சிறு சேமிப்புக்கு நிதி திரட்டித்தர கேட்பது என்று ஒரு திட்டத்தை மேற்கொள்ளுவார்களேயானால் அவர்கள் சொன்ன அளவை எட்டிப்பிடிப்பது என்பது மிகவும் சுலபம்.

அவர்கள் இந்த இயக்கத்தில் நல்ல வெற்றியை தேடித் தருவார்கள் என்பதில் எனக்கு மிகுந்த நம்பிக்கையுண்டு. அதற்கு காரணம் அவர்கள் ஆடம்பரமற்ற தன்மையான வாழ்க்கையை நடத்திக் காட்டிவருவது தான். படத்துறையிலும் சமுதாயத்திற்கு மிக நல்ல பணியை செய்து வருகிறார்கள். அவர்களுடைய முயற்சியில் நம்முடைய மாநிலத்திற்கு அதிக நிதியை திரட்ட முடியும்.

குறையை போக்க வேண்டும்

ஆனால் இப்போது மேற்கு வங்காளமும், மகாராஷ்டிர மாநிலமும் அடைந்துள்ள வெற்றியை நாம் இந்தத் துறையிலே அடையவில்லை. வேண்டுமானால் மகாராஷ்டிரம் நம் மாநிலத்தைவிட பெரிய மாநிலம் என்று ஒப்புக்கொள்ளலாம். ஆனால் நாம் வங்காளத்துடன் ஒப்பிட்டுப் பார்க்கும் பொழுது அந்த அளவுக்கு நமது வளர்ச்சி இல்லை என்பது தெரிகிறது. இந்தக் குறையை போக்க வேண்டும்.

நாம் குறைந்தது 3 மாதத்திற்கு ஒரு தடவையாவது மக்களிடத்தில் ஏதாவது ஒரு காரணத்திற்காக சென்று பணம் கேட்கின்றோம். அது சிலருக்கு ஓர் அளவுக்கு வருத்தமாக இருக்கிறது.

நான்காவது ஐந்தாண்டுத் திட்டத்திற்கு இன்னும் வடிவம் கொடுக்கப்படவில்லை. அடுத்து வரும் வருடங்களிலே திட்டம் எந்த அளவில் இருக்க வேண்டும் என்று நிர்ணயிக்க சர்க்காரிடத்திலே உள்ள எல்லா துறைகளையும்

உங்களுக்கு என்ன என்ன திட்டங்கள் இருக்கின்றன என்று கேட்டறிந்து நாங்கள் திட்டம் தீட்டிய பொழுது 135 கோடி ரூபாய்க்கு திட்டம் தீட்டினோம். அன்று இரவு எனக்கு நிம்மதியான தூக்கம் . நாம் 135 கோடி ரூபாய்க்கு திட்டம் தீட்டியிருக்கிறோம். அதை நிறைவேற்றும்போது இன்னும் பல புதிய கல்லூரி கட்டிடங்களைக் கட்டலாம், மருத்துவ மனையிலே இன்னும் பல படுக்கை வசதிகள் செய்யலாம், இன்னும் நல்ல போக்குவரத்து வசதிகள் செய்யலாம் என்று நினைத்தோம். ஆனால் அதன் பிறகு ஆய்வாளர்களின் ஆலோசனைப்படி அது ரூபாய் 95 கோடியாக குறைந்தது, பிறகு திட்டம் கொடுக்கின்ற நேரத்தில் அது 85 கோடி ரூபாய் நிலைக்கு வந்து நின்றது.

நாங்கள் டெல்லியிலே நிதித் துறையிடம் ரூபாய் 85 கோடிக்கு திட்டம் தீட்டியிருக்கிறோம் என்று சொன்ன போது, அவர்கள் 85 கோடி ரூபாய்கு திட்டம் தீட்டினாலும் எங்களால் 42 கோடி ரூபாய் தான் கொடுக்க முடியும். மேலும் தேவைப்படும் பணத்திற்கு நீங்கள் உங்கள் மாநிலத்திலேயே ஏதாவது வழி செய்துகொள்ளுங்கள் என்று கூறிவிட்டார்கள். நாங்கள் உடனே அரசு அதிகாரிகளை அழைத்து மக்களிடமிருந்து எவ்வளவு பணம் திரட்ட முடியும் என்று கேட்டபோது அவர்கள் 23 கோடி ரூபாய் திரட்டலாம் என்று மதிப்பீடு கொடுத்தார்கள். மிச்சமுள்ள 20 கோடி ரூபாய்க்கு ஏதாவது வழி கண்டு பிடித்தாக வேண்டும் என்ற நிலையில் தமிழக அரசு இருக்கிறது. ஆகவே தான் அரசு சிறு சேமிப்பு துறையில் திட்டமிட்ட அளவு நிதி திரட்ட வேண்டுமென்பதில் மிகுந்த அக்கறை காட்டிவருகிறது.

கடனும் கடமையும்

துணைத் தலைவர் அவர்கள் பேசும் பொழுது கணக்கிலே கடன் வாங்குவது என்று வருகிறது என்பதைக் குறிப்பிட்டார்கள். கடன் என்ற வார்த்தையை நாம் சுலபத்தில் விட்டுவிடுவதற்கில்லை. கடன் என்பது கடமை என்று கூட தமிழிலே ஒரு அர்த்தம் இருக்கிறது. ஆகவே கடன் என்பதை கடமை என்று எடுத்துக் கொள்ளலாம்.

சிறு சேமிப்பில் இருந்து எவ்வளவு தொகை கிடைக்கும் என்று ஒரு கணக்கிட்டிருக்கிறோம். அந்த தொகை யாவது திட்டங்களை நிறைவேற்ற உதவ வேண்டும். ஆகவே அந்த தொகை கிடைக்க வழி செய்ய வேண்டும் என்று உங்களைக் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.

நீங்கள் ஒவ்வொருவரும் ஒவ்வொரு துறைக்கு தலைவர்கள். எனக்கு பெயர்தான் அண்ணாதுரையே தவிர, நீங்கள் ஒவ்வொருவரும் ஒவ்வொரு துறையை கவனித்துக் கொண்டால்தான் நான் ஒரு துறையை கவனித்துக்கொள்ள முடியும். எல்லாத் துறையினும் உள்ள நீங்கள் இதில் ஊக்கம் காட்டினால் தான் இந்த இயக்கம் நல்ல முறையிலே நடக்கும்.

படத் துறையிலே உள்ளவர்கள் பலர் இங்கே இருக்கிறார்கள். திரைப் படத்திலே சிறு சேமிப்பைப் பற்றி ஒரு சிறு துணுக்கு நல்ல முறையிலே சேர்க்க வேண்டும் என்று துணைத்தலைவர் அவர்கள் கேட்டுக் கொண்டார்கள். நான் சொல்ல விரும்புவது படத்துறையிலே உள்ளவர்கள் இது போன்ற, செய்ய வேண்டிய, நல்ல காரியங்களை எப்பொழுதும் செய்யத் தவறியதே இல்லை. அவர்களுக்கு இந்த சிறு சேமிப்பின் அவசியத்தைப் பற்றி நிச்சயமாகத் தெரியும். அவர்கள் அப்படிப்பட்ட படங்களை எடுப்பார்களே யானால் அது உருக்கம் நிறைந்த படமாக இருக்கும் என்று எனக்கு தெரியும்.

ஆலோசனை நல்குங்கள்

இங்கு வந்துள்ள நீங்கள் உங்களுடைய ஆலோசனைகளை எடுத்துச் சொல்லி, சிறு சேமிப்பு இயக்கம் வெற்றி பெறுவதற்கான முறையில் நல்ல வழி வகுக்க வேண்டும் என்று விரும்பி வேண்டி கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். நீங்கள் உங்களுடைய கருத்துக்களையும், ஆலோசனைகளையும் துணைத் தலைவர் அவர்களிடம் எடுத்துச் சொல்லலாம். இப்பொழுதே எடுத்துச் சொல்ல வேண்டுமென்ற அவசரம் இல்லை. நீங்கள் நேரிலும் சொல்லலாம். கடித மூலமாகவும் கருத்துக்களைத் தெரிவிக்கலாம்.

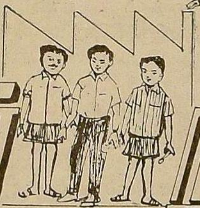
கிராமத்திலே ஒரு பழக்கம் உண்டு. ஏதாவது ஒரு நல்ல காரியத்திற்கு நிதி திரட்டும்போது எல்லோரிடமும் சென்று நிதி திரட்டுவார்கள். அதிலே முதல் தொகை கிடைப்பது தான் கடினம். முதலில் ஒருவர் 100 ரூபாய் கொடுத்து விட்டால், பிறகு தானே கூட வந்து மற்றவர்களிடமிருந்தும் அவர் மிகுந்த பணத்தை சேர்த்துத் தருவார். அது மனித சுபாவம்.

அதுபோல் நீங்கள் மட்டுமன்றி உங்களுக்கு தெரிந்தவர்களிடமும் எடுத்துச் சொல்லி இந்த திட்டத்திற்கு வெற்றி தேடித்தருவீர்கள் என்று நம்புகிறேன். கிராமப் புறத்திற்கும், சிறு சேமிப்புக்கும் ஒப்புவமை காட்டியது தவறு என்று யாரும் கருத மாட்டார்கள் என்று நினைக்கிறேன்.

நீங்கள் அனைவரும் இந்த திட்டத்திற்கு நல்ல ஆதரவு கொடுத்து வெற்றி தேடித்தரவேண்டுமென்று உங்கள் ஒவ்வொருவரையும் விரும்பி, வேண்டி கேட்டுக் கொள்கிறேன்.

உங்கள் சேமிப்பால் பயனடைவது குடும்பம் மட்டுமல்ல—நாடும்தான்

தொழிலாளர் நலன்



மாண்புமிகு திரு. எஸ். மாதவன்
தமிழக சட்ட அமைச்சர்

ஒரு நாட்டின் பொருளாதார, சமுதாய நல்வாழ்விற்கு தொழில் துறையில் நிலவும் நல்லுறவு மிக முக்கியமான தாகும். தொழில் துறையில், தொழிலாளருக்கும் தொழிலதிபர்களுக்கும் இடையே நல்லுறவு இல்லையெனில் உற்பத்திப் பெருக்கமோ தொழில் முன்னேற்றமோ காண இயலாது. இயந்திரத் தொழிலில் முன்னேற்றம் காண முயன்று கொண்டிருக்கும் நம் நாட்டில், இத்தகைய நல்லுறவு இன்றியமையாத் தேவையாகும். எனவே, இந்த நல்லுறவை நிலை நிறுத்துவதில் அரசாங்கம் மட்டுமன்றி, பொதுமக்களும் மிகுந்த அக்கறை எடுத்துக் கொள்ளவேண்டும்.

தொழில்துறை நல்லுறவிற்கு அடிப்படை தொழிலாளர் நலன்தான். அவர்களது நலனைக் குறிக்கோளாகக் கொண்டே, தொழில்துறை சம்பந்தமாகச் சட்டங்கள் இயற்றப்படுகின்றன. தொழிலாளர்—தொழிலதிபர் இடையே ஏற்படும் பூசல்களையும், வழக்குகளையும் தீர்ப்பதற்கென்று தனி நீதிமன்றங்கள் செயல்படுகின்றன. எத்தனையோ சட்டங்கள் இருந்தாலும், எத்தனையோ வழி முறைகள் வகுக்கப் பட்டிருந்தாலும், தொழில்துறைப் பூசல்கள் எழத்தான் செய்யும். வேலை நிறுத்தங்களும், கதவடைப்புகளும் நடக்கின்றன. இதன் பயனாக உற்பத்தி குறைந்து தொழில் வளர்ச்சி குன்றுகிறது.

தொழிலாளியின் தேவைகள்

தொழிலாளியினுடைய உழைப்பை விலை கொடுத்து வாங்கலாம் என்ற எண்ணத்தில் தொழிலாளர்களை வாணிகப் பொருள்களாகக் கருதும் காலம் மறைந்து விட்டது. உழைக்கும் தொழிலாளி, பாடுபடும் பாட்டாளி நாட்டின் செல்வங்கள். உழைக்கும் கூட்டத்திற்கு தேவை உணவு, உடை, தங்க இடம். இந்தக் குறைந்த பட்சத் தேவைகள் கிடைக்காத தொழிலாளியின் வாழ்க்கையில் அமைதியைக் காண முடியுமா ?

சட்டம் இயற்றியோ, சமூக பொருளாதார அமைப்பை மாற்றியோ பாடுபடும் பாட்டாளிக்கு ஏற்ற வேலையும், போதிய ஊதியமும், தரமான வாழ்வும், தகுந்த ஓய்வும் கிடைக்கும் வகையில் வேலை வசதிகளும், சமூக பண்பாடு வாய்ப்புக்களும் கிட்டுமாறு அரசு ஆவன செய்யவேண்டும் என்று அரசியலமைப்புச் சட்டம் ஆணையிடுகின்றது. தொழிலாளர் நலனைப் பேணுவது அரசாங்கத்தின் கடமைகளுள் ஒன்றாகும்.

சமுதாய, பொருளாதார, அரசியல் நீதியை மக்களிடை நிலை நிறுத்துவது இந்தியக் குடியரசின் குறிக்கோள் என்று நம் அரசமைப்புச் சட்டத்தில் அறிவுறுத்தப்பட்டுள்ளது. தொழிலாளர் நலம் பேணும் முயற்சிகள் சமுதாய நீதியின்பாற்பட்டவை, பொருளாதார நீதியைக் குறிக்கோளாகக் கொண்டவை. இவை உணர்ந்து செயலாற்றும் பாங்கினை புதிய தமிழக அரசின் சீரிய பணிகளில் காணலாம்.

தகராறுகளைத் தீர்க்க

உழவும் தொழிலும், சமுதாய நலனுக்கு அடிப்படையானவை. தொழில் வளர்ச்சியால் உற்பத்தி பெருகுகிறது. பொருளாதார வளம் பெருகுகின்றது. உற்பத்திப் பெருக்கம் இல்லையென்றால் சமுதாயம் வளம் இழந்து வாடிநிற்கும். தொழில் வளர்ச்சியில் தடங்கல் ஏற்பட்டால் சமுதாய நலம் குன்றும். சமுதாய நலம் குறைந்தால் தொழிலாளர் நலமும் குறைகிறது. தொழில் வளர்ச்சி என்ற அடிப்படை இல்லையேல் சமுதாய நலம் இல்லை ; தொழிலாளர் நலம் இல்லை. தொழிலாளர் நலனுக்கென்று எடுக்கப்படும் முயற்சிகள் அனைத்தும் தொழில் வளர்ச்சியைப் பெருக்க வதுவாக அமைதல் வேண்டும். இந்த அடிப்படை உண்மையை உள்ளத்தில் ஏற்க வேண்டும். இந்த உண்மையை மறவாது செயல் பட்டால்தான் தொழிலாளர் நலனுக்கென மேற் கொள்ளப்படும் செயல் திட்டங்கள் சீராகப் பயன்தரும்.

வளரும் பொருளாதார அமைப்பில் தொழில் தகராறுகள் பெருகுவது இயற்கை. பெருகிவரும் தகராறுகளின் பெரும்பான்மையானவை பொருளாதார ஏற்றத்தாழ்வுகளின் விளைவால் தோன்றுபவை. ஒரு தொழில் நிறுவனத்தில் தொழிலாளர் குறைபாடுகள் எத்தனையோ எழலாம். ஒவ்வொரு குறைபாடும் தொழில் பூசலாக உருவெடுக்கவிடலாகாது. அவற்றைப் பற்றி உடனே விவாதித்து முடிவு காண வேண்டும். இதற்கான வழி முறைகள் காணாததால் சுலபமாகத் தீர்க்கப்பட வேண்டிய குறைபாடுகள் எல்லாம் தொழிற் பூசல்களாக முற்றி விடுகின்றன. குறைபாடுகள்,

தகராறுகளாக முற்றிப்போன பிறகுதான் அரசாங்கம் தலையிடும் நிலை உள்ளது. இந்நிலை மாற வேண்டும். தவிர்க்கத் தக்க தகராறுகள் தோன்றுதவாறு கண் காணிப்பதில் கவனம் செலுத்தவேண்டும். இதற்கென "குறைபாட்டுக் குழு" (Grievance Machinery) ஒன்றை ஒவ்வொரு தொழில் நிறுவனத்திலும் ஏற்படுத்து வதற்கு முயற்சிக்க வேண்டும்.

தொழில் தகராறுகளைச் சமரசம் பேசித் தீர்ப்பதிலும் அதிகமாகக் கவனம் செலுத்தவேண்டும். இவ்வாறு தீர்ப்பதில் காலதாமதம் அதிகமாக இருக்கிறது. சமரசப் பேச்சுக்களை நடத்துவதிலும், காலதாமதம் இன்றித் தகராறுகளைத் தீர்ப்பதிலும் முயற்சிகள் பெருக வேண்டும். தொழில் தகராறுகளுக்கு நீதி மன்றங்களில் தீர்வு பெற முடியும் என்று எண்ணுவது தவறு. இதில் ஏற்படும் காலதாமதம், மனக்கசப்பு தொழில் உறவைப் பாதிக்கும். பெரும்பாலும் நடுவர் தீர்வுக்கு (Arbitration) இருசாராரும் இசைவுதருவது பெருமளவுக்கு பிரச்சினைகளைத் தீர்க்க ஏதுவாக அமையும்.

ஒவ்வொரு தொழில் நிறுவனத்திலும் கூட்டு நிர்வாகக் குழு (Joint Management Council) இருத்தல் வேண்டும். நிர்வாகத்தின் பிரதிநிதிகளும் தொழி லாளரின் பிரதிநிதிகளும் இக்குழுவில் இடம் பெறுதல் அவசியம். இக்குழு திறம்பட இயங்கினால், தொழில் தகராறுகள் எழுவதற்கு இடமே இல்லாத நிலை காணலாம். தமிழகத்தில் 18 நிறுவனங்களில் தான் இத்தகைய கூட்டு நிர்வாகக் குழுக்கள் இப்பொழுது இருக்கின்றன. தொழிற் சாலையின் நிர்வாகத்தில் தொழிலாளர்களும் பங்குபெறுவது அவர்களது கடமை உணர்வைப் பெருக்கும்

வீட்டு வசதி

தொழிலாளர்கள் குடியிருப்பதற்கு வீட்டுவசதி மிக முக்கியமானதாகும். இதில் நாம் இன்னும் நல்ல முன்னேற்றம் காணவில்லை. சென்னை நகரில் பல தொழிலாளர்கள் சேரிகளில்தான் குடியிருக்கின்றனர். சுகாதார வசதிகள் இல்லாத நிலையில் தொழிலாளர் களின் குடும்பங்கள் வாழ்வதைக் காணும்பொழுது வேதனையால் உள்ளம் துடிக்கின்றது. தொழிலாளர் வீட்டு வசதிக்கென அரசாங்கம் அளிக்கும் நிதி உதவி வாய்ப்பினை நிர்வாகத்தினர் பயன்படுத்த வேண்டும். தொழிலாளர் அரசு ஈட்டுறுதித் (Insurance) திட்டம் தமிழகத்தில் பெரும்பயனைத் தர வாய்ப்புள்ளது. தொழிலாளர்கள் குடும்பங் களுக்கு வைத்திய வசதி அளிக்கும் திட்டம் விரிவு படுத்தப்பட்டு வருகின்றது.

தொழில்துறை உறவு, தொழிலாளர் நலத்துக்கான சட்டங்கள், இவைபற்றி அவ்வப்போது அரசிற்கு ஆலோ சனை கூறுவதற்கென்று தொழில் ஆலோசனைக் கூட்டுக் குழு (Labour Advisory Board) ஒன்றை அரசு நிறுவியுள்ளது. பலதிறப்பட்ட தொழிலாளர் களின் பிரதிநிதிகள் இக்குழுவில் இடம் பெறுவார்கள். இதுபோல் தொழில் அதிபர்கள் அடங்கிய குழு ஒன்றும் தொழிலாளர் பிரச்சினைகளில் அரசுக்கு ஆலோசனை கூற அமைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. அனைத்து கட்சிகளின் ஆதரவோடு தொழிலாளர்களின் துன்பங்களைத் துடைக்க புதிய அரசின் புது முயற்சிகள் இவை.

தொழில் துறையில் அமைதி நிலவவேண்டும் எனில் தொழிலாளர், தொழிலதிபர்கள் ஒழுங்குமுறை விதிகள் வகுத்து கட்டுப்பாட்டோடு பின்பற்ற வேண்டும். ஒரு தொழிலுக்கு ஒரு தொழிற் சங்கமே என்ற நிலை ஏற்று தொழிலாளர் சக்தி பெருக்க வேண்டும். ஆனால், நாட்டிலுள்ள அரசியல் நிலை காரணமாக ஒரே தொழிலுக்கு ஒன்றுக்கு மேற்பட்ட சங்கங்கள் இருக்கின்றன. அரசியல் கருத்துக்கள் தொழிற் சங்கங்களில் இணைந்து அரசியல் சூழ் நிலைகளுக்கேற்பத் தொழிற் சங்கங்கள் செயல்படுகின்றன. இந்த நிலை மாறவேண்டும்.

முக்கியமான ஒன்று

நாம் நினைவிற் கொள்ளவேண்டிய முக்கியமான ஒன்றைக் கூற விரும்புகிறேன். நாட்டின் அமைதியும் ஒழுங்குமே நல்வாழ்வின் அடிப்படையானவை. ஒழுங்கு முறைகளை மீறி அமைதியைக் குலைக்கும் செயல்களால் தீமையின்றி நன்மை கிடைக்காது. வன்முறைச் செயல்களில் ஈடுபடாமல் தொழிற் சங்கங்கள் இயங்கவேண்டும். வன்முறையில் இறங்கிய உடனே சமுதாயத்தின் அமைதி கெடுகின்றது. பொது மக்களுக்குத் தொழிலாளர்கள் மீதுள்ள நல்லெண்ணம் மறைகின்றது. வழிதவறி வன்முறைகளில் இறங்குவோர்களையும் நாம் திருத்த வேண்டும். அதே சமயத்தில் தொழிலாளர் இயக்கம் ஒவ்வொன்றையுமே சட்டம், ஒழுங்கு, அமைதி என்ற பெயரால் ஒடுக்க முயலுவதும் கூடாது. சட்டம், ஒழுங்கு, அமைதி இவை பாதுகாக்கப்பட வேண்டியது தலையாய கடன். ஆயினும், இவற்றின் பெயரால் தொழிலாளர்களின் நியாயமான நடவடிக்கைகளை அடக்க முற்படுவதும், தொழிலாளரின் உரிமைகளை நசுக்குவதும் எதிர் மாறான விளைவுகளையே ஏற்படுத்தும்.

ஒவ்வொரு தொழிலாளியின் மனத்திலும் தானும் தொழிலில், உற்பத்தியில், பொருளாதார வளர்ச்சியில் பங்கு கொள்ளுகிறோம் என்ற பெருமிதம் தோன்றும் வண்ணம் தொழில்கள் நடைபெற வேண்டும். தனிப் பட்டவர்களின் சொந்த இலாபத்திற்கு மட்டுமே தொழில்கள் நடைபெறுகின்றன என்று யாரும் எண்ணக்கூடாது. சமுதாய நலம்தான் முன் நிற்க வேண்டும்.

சட்டம், நீதிமன்றங்கள் மூலம்தான் தொழிற் பிரச்சினைகளை தீர்க்க முடியும் எனக் கருதுவது தவறு. தொழில் தகராறுகள் எழுவதும் அரசாங்கம் தலையிட்டு சமரசம் என்ற பேரால் இரு சாராரையும் கொஞ்சம் கொஞ்சம் விட்டுக்கொடுக்கச் செய்வதும் நமது நாட்டில் பழக்கமாகிவிட்டது. இந்த முறை தொழில் துறையில் நல்ல சூழ்நிலையை தோற்று விக்காது. மாறாக ஒவ்வொரு தொழிற்சாலையின் பொருளாதார நிலைக்கு ஏற்றவாறு தொழிலாளரின் தேவைகளை நிர்ணயிக்கவேண்டும். இத்தேவைகளை நிர்ணயிக்க நடுவர்களின் தீர்ப்பை இறுதியாக

ஏற்கவேண்டும். இந்த நிலை எய்த - இன்றைக்கு இருக்கும் தொழில் நீதி மன்றங்களின் அமைப்பு முறையில் பெரும் மாறுதல் காணவேண்டும்.

தொழிலாளர்களைப் பழிவாங்கவேண்டும், தொழிற் சங்கங்களை வளரவிடக் கூடாது என்ற எண்ணங்கள் மறைய வேண்டும். அதேபோல் தொழிற்சங்கங்களை அரசியல் நோக்கங்களுக்காகவும், தனிப்பட்டவர்களின் வளர்ச்சிக்காகவும் பயன்படுத்தும் முறைகளும் மாற வேண்டும்.

இருவேறு கருத்துக்கள்

தொழிலாளர் இயக்கங்களில் அரசியல் பொருளாதார தத்துவங்களைப் பரப்பும் முயற்சிகளையும் காண்கின்றேன். அரசியல் கட்சிகளின் நிழல் படிந்திருப்பதாகக் கற்பித்துக்கூறி எல்லாத் தொழிலாளர் இயக்கங்களையும் ஒடுக்க வேண்டுமென்று தம்பட்டம் அடிக்கும் ஆதிக்க உணர்வு உள்ளவர்களையும் காண்கின்றேன். இந்த இருவேறு தீவிர கருத்துக்களும் நாட்டின் பிரச்சனைகளைத் தீர்க்கும் என நான் நம்பவில்லை.

தொழிலாளர் நலம்பேணும் தொழில் அதிபர்களும், சிறந்த தொழிலாளர் தலைவர்களும் நிறைந்த தமிழ் நாடு தொழில் வளம் பெருக்கும் என்பதில் ஐயமில்லை.

தொழிலாளர்களுக்குச் சமூக நீதி கிடைத்திட, அரசு நல்ல பயன்தரும் திட்டங்களை உருவாக்க வேண்டும் பொருளாதார வளர்ச்சி பெற்ற வெளிநாடுகளில் காணும் மறுமலர்ச்சி காண இயலாவிட்டாலும் நிலையான வாழ்வும், நிம்மதி தரும் வசதியும் பெற்றுத்தர முயற்சிகள் எடுக்கவேண்டும்

> “ தாளாற்றித் தந்த பொருளெல்லாம் தக்கார்க்கு
> வேளாண்மை செய்தற் பொருட்டு. ”

என்கிறார் வள்ளுவர். பாடுபட்டு உழைக்கும் தொழிலாளர்களை விடத் தக்கார்கள் எவர்? தொழிலதிபர்கள் இவ்வாறு தங்கள் ஆதாயத்தில் கணிசமான பகுதியைத் தொழிலாளர்களுக்கென விரும்பியளித்தால் ஒவ்வொரு தொழில் நிறுவனமும் ஒரு குடும்பம்போல் ஒற்றுமையாக விளங்கும். வளமை குன்றாத வயல்களும், வறுமை காணாத தொழில்களும் நாட்டில் நிலைக்க வேண்டுமெனில் நாட்டில் அமைதியும் நல்லுறவும் நிலை பெற வேண்டும். இந்த நல்லுறவின் அடிப்படையில் தான் தொழிலாளர் நலம் பெருக முடியும். நாட்டின் நலனைக் கருத்தில்கொண்டு தொழிலதிபர்களும் தொழிலாளர்களும் தொண்டு செய்யத் தொடங்கிவிடின் நம் நாட்டின் எதிர்காலம் பொற்காலமாக அமையும் என்பதில் ஐயமில்லை—(சென்னை அகில இந்திய வானொலி நிலையத்தில் இருந்து 13–12–67-ல் ஒலிபரப்பப்பட்ட பேச்சு.)

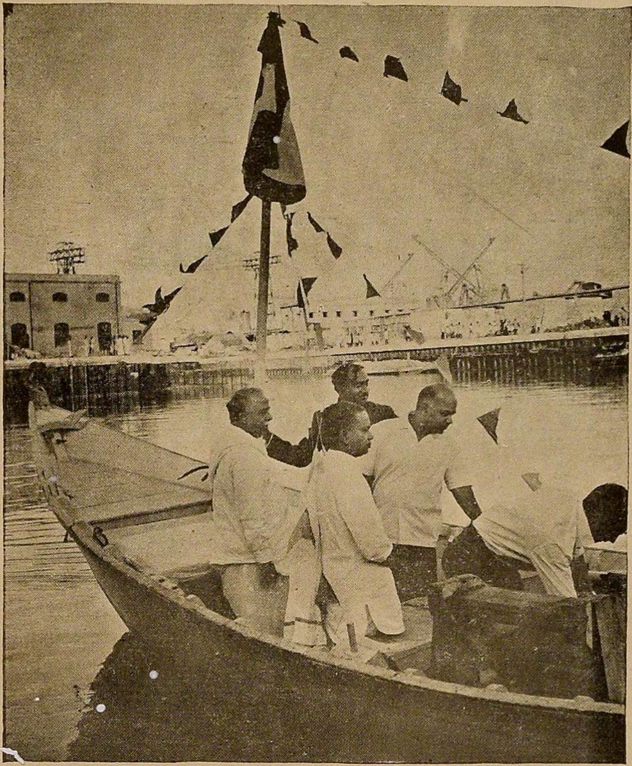
The Madras Shops and Establishments Act, 1947

The Madras Shops and Establishments Act, 1947, is in force in the City of Madras, in all the Municipal areas and Class I Panchayats in this State and also in some special areas notified by the Government.

In 1966, there were 1,37,164 establishments covered by this Act in the State including 1,79,569 shops, 7,055 commercial establishments; 540 theatres; out of the 1,79,569 shops, 1,24,078 shops were run by owners without employees. The total number of persons employed in the establishments was 2,27,358.

Temporary exemption from the provisions of the Act relating to working hours, opening and closing hours and weekly holidays was granted by the Commissioner of Labour in the case of 15 fairs and festivals. The stalls situated in six exhibitions were also exempted from all provisions of the Act.

Four hundred and fifty-two prosecutions were sanctioned during the year for contraventions of the provisions of the Act. During the previous year also the number of prosecutions sanctioned was 458. During the year 457 cases ended in conviction, 3 in acquittal. 441 appeals under section 41 of the Act against alleged wrongful dismissal of employees, 18 applications under section 51 for rulings on the applicability of the Act, were filed before the Commissioner of Labour during the year under review. Of the cases filed under section 41 of the Act 517cases were disposed of during the year.



THE DORIS PROJECT

(Indo-French Collaboration for the advancement of Fishermen on the Coromandal cost of India.)

Thiru C. N. Annadurai, Chief Minister who inaugurated the Doris Project on 31st January 1968 is seen taking drive in the Doris type boat.

The 'Doris Project' is an Indo-French Fisheries Collaboration for the advancement of the fishermen on the Coromandal coast of India. The main objectives of the Project are—

(*a*) To provide facilities for training fishermen in improved methods and techniques in line fishing operation.

(*b*) To build up an organisation which will help the fishermen to obtain a more substantial share in the returns for its efforts.

(*c*) To establish on the Coromandal coast, a chain of centres which will operate improved methods of fishing.

A Managing Committee has been set up to co-ordinate necessary action for facilitating the work of the French team which has arrived at Madras. The team consists of a leader and four French expert fishermen. They have brought with them two special type of 'Doris' ocean-going launches and other fishing equipments. The experts will demonstrate the use of improved methods and techniques of line fishing to the local Departmental Officers as well as fishermen.

These 'Doris' type boats have been designed and developed at the Island of St. Pierre Miquelon on the Atlantic Ocean, at an estimated cost of Rs. 15,000 per boat. These boats can be operated with two men only and catch an average quantity of 640 kgs. of fish per day. But the catches may even go up to 3,000 kgs. per day. These 'Doris' boats are equipped with electronic 'fish finder' that can indicate availability of fish even at a depth of 40 fathoms. The launches are capable of cruising at a speed of 5 to 6 knots per hour. These boats are 8 metres long and equipped with 2 to 3 h.p. petrol operated engine and rigged with sails.

An added advantage in the design of these launches is that they do not need harbour facilities. These boats can be beached like our 'Masula' boats.

If these are found suitable for the coastal waters of this State, a Boat Building Yard will be set up to fabricate such boats in Madras, for supply to the fishermen who now depend upon indigenous crafts like Catamaran.

Poultry can help raise crop yields

When you keep poultry, you, of course, get wholesome and nutritious food—eggs. In addition, you get rich manure also. This manure can help you get better yields from your field.

A poultry bird weighing 2·5 kilos excretes about 55 grams of droppings in a day. These droppings contain the faeces as well as the urine of the bird. The faecal material includes undigested food, intestinal bacteria, digestive juices, worn-out intestinal living tissues and mineral matter. The urine is seen as a white pasty material on the faecal material or mixed with it. The whole mixture is called poultry manure.

As compared to the dung of domestic animals, poultry manure is much richer in organic matter and in the three important plant nutrients, viz., nitrogen, phosphorus and potash. Most of the nitrogen in poultry manure is easily available to the growing plants, unlike the nitrogen in the manure of domestic animals.

Organic contents

The organic contents of poultry manure—about 29 per cent—are more than in horse, cattle or pig manure, though slightly less than in sheep manure.

It is richer in nitrogen (1·46 per cent), phosphoric acid (1·17 per cent) and potash (0·62 per cent) than the manure from any other domestic animals.

So poultry manure is a good manure. But where and how do you get it ?

Under the intensive system of poultry raising, chicks are always kept on a thick layer of litter material in a shed. Now for the litter, a number of materials can be used.

Straw of wheat, rice, oat, barley, *jowar*, *bajra* bean and dry grass and leaves, rice husk, groundnut hulls, peat and saw dust are the materials from which litter is prepared. Each one of these also contains nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash which can be used by plants.

The manure

This litter material is allowed to remain in the poultry shed for a year or more. During this period the droppings of birds get mixed with the litter. The entire material gets decomposed. As a result, a dry, loose, friable material free from bad smell is produced.

How rich the manure is depends on the type of litter used and the time for which it is kept in the poultry shed. On an average, a properly formed poultry litter, after a year, will contain about 3 per cent nitrogen, 2·5 per cent phosphoric acid, 2 per cent potash along with valuable trace elements.

This litter can be straightway used on the land.

About two tons of this litter can be had every year from a poultry house measuring about 350 square feet and having 100 laying hens.

This is how you can get manure from your poultry flock.

So don't be satisfied with eggs alone from the birds, get manure too for your fields.—From *Intensive Agriculture, August* 1967.

Protect Your Sight Against Diseases of the Eye

Dr. U. C. GUPTA and Thiru U. S. MISHRA

Eye sight may be impaired or lost due to eye diseases, injuries in sports and war, use of irritants, pernicious activities of the quacks and couchers and other occupational hazards. Visual abnormalities, if not attended to in time, cause considerable loss of vision. Wrong postures, inadequate or too strong light and reading of badly printed books may also account for the diminution of vision.

Certain systemic diseases, especially the diabetes, syphilis, hypertension, tuberculosis, etc. play an important role in causing visual defects.

The problem

Prevention is better than cure.—Early detection and timely treatment of the eye diseases is essential. The problem can be considered in two groups (i) of those that are below 21 years of age and (ii) of those who are above 21 years.

In case of the former the main causes of preventable blindness are trachoma and associate conjunctivitis, smallpox and under nourishment and opthalmia neonatorum (commonly called as the eye disease of the new born).

In persons aged over 21 years, besides trachoma and associate conjunctivitis, glaucoma and cataract, the injuries, diabetes and venereal diseases also cause impairment of vision. Hence, it is advisable that on the least suspicion of diseases to the eye, immediate attention should be paid to consult an eye specialist for treatment.

Myopia or short-sightedness.—A person suffering from myopia cannot see distant objects clearly, although his vision will be perfectly alright. This may be due to many causes, but can be corrected with a pair of lenses fitted by a qualified optician. In case this does not help, it is advisable to consult immediately an eye specialist. Glasses should never be bought from pavement opticians and hawkers.

Generally children who suffer from short-sight take little interest in outdoor games, since they will find it difficult to see distant objects sharply. If untreated for a long time, it will affect their personality and career in the long run.

Hyper-metropia or long-sightedness.—After 35 years of age, there is a common complaint, that there appears to be difficulty in seeing near objects, reading and doing fine works, like embroidery, etc. This is also a physiological change due to aging process. This defect, called Hyper-metropia can be corrected with lenses. In early ages, however, this may be an indication of some serious eye disease and hyper-metropia in children should always be taken seriously and a specialist consulted.

Conjunctivitis and Trachoma.—Popularly called as "Rohe", "Kheel" and "Kuthai" in India, Trachoma is a common diseases in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana and Gujarat. In this disease white sago like granules appear inside the eye lids., which cause irritation and some trouble. If not treated in time, it may result in many complications and even cause blindness. Trachoma can be prevented by maintaining ocular hygiene and use of antibiotic eye-ointments. So also conjunctivitis, which is generally associated with Trachoma. However, in case such treatment is not effective, the earliest opportunity should be availed to consult an eye specialist for treatment.

Affects career

Colour blindness.—Colour blindness debars many of the youngmen in taking up a career as Drivers, Railway Guards, Pilots and so on. So far nothing has been known to cure this deficiency. If the vision test is taken up early in the childhood, the person after knowing the deficiency may select a career where colour blindness may not stand as a bar.

Night blindness.—In developing and under-developed countries, permanent blindness frequently occurs due to lack of Vitamin "A". Night blindness is one of the common symptoms generally caused by the deficiency of Vitamin "A".

This nutritional deficiency can easily be made good by taking green leafy vegetables, curry leaves, coriander, *Amaranth*, sap flower, carrot and drumstick. Germinated bengalgram is rich in Vitamin "A" and protein and may form part of a cheap balanced diet. The practice of eating a carrot or tomato a day could be popularised among children. It will go a long way in reducing the nutritional deficiency and its evil broods.

Glaucoma.—Ninety per cent of Glaucoma cases could be saved, if the disease is detected and treated in time. Its first indications are very often, a halo around lights after the dark, rapidly failing up-focussing power of the

eye and occasional blurring of vision. Poor vision and discomfort after a stay in the dark are due to pressure of the iris against the fluid circulation channels around the lens. Headaches may occur, often on one side only.

If the disease is not checked there will be a rapid loss of vision. This disease is caused by the pressure inside the eye ball becoming high enough to stretch the eye ball and press on the sensitive layers.

Physiological change

If you are about 35 years, when you go out at night, look at street lights. If you see coloured rings like halos around the lights, it is better you get yourself checked for Glaucoma by a specialist. It is a preventable and curable disease, if detected in time. Delay may cause irreparable damage to vision.

Cataract.—The natural lens of eye is transparent and permits light rays to enter. Due to physiological changes during the aging process, the transparency is gradually reduced due to certain metabolic change in the lens which are nutritional in nature. This affects the vision and ultimately the whole lens become opaque like a pearl, known as Cataract. This, it is not a disease, but a physiological change. Any treatment by couchers or quacks should be avoided. If cataract is suspected, an eye specialist should be consulted for treatment.

Venereal disease.—The venereal diseases like, Gono·rohoea and syphilis affect the vision. Hence, the treatment for these diseases should not be neglected. In cases were adverse effect to the vision is detected after the treatment of the venereal diseases, complete history of the disease should be given to the specialist so that he may be able to come to a correct diagnosis and give proper treatment.

Occupational hazards.—Very often the employees engaged in occupations where there is a risk to the eyes, neglect to use protective glasses or goggles. This is a dangerous practice, since slight mishaps may cause permanent loss of vision.

Diabetes and smallpox.—Diabetes and smallpox cause loss of sight. Smallpox vaccination should be taken at proper intervals. In addition to the treatment of diabetes prescribed by the physician, persons suffering from diabetes should get their vision also checked up regularly.

High blood pressure or hypertension.—Hypertension is a systematic disease of our circulatory system mostly in advanced age. Like diabetes, it affects the eyes and the aquity of vision. In extreme cases of high blood pressure there may be haemorrhage or bleeding from the vessels inside the eye ball.

Simultaneous to the treatment of the high blood pressure care of the eyes should always be taken according to the advice of the physician.

Enemy number one

Government efforts and public co-operation.—Trachoma is enemy number one to the eye-sight due to its high prevalence in the country. For the control of trachoma, the Government of India is taking all the measures, wherever necessary, in collaboration with the International Organisations like WHO and UNICEF.

Smallpox has also been brought under control to a great extent with the implementation of the eradication programme. The cases of opthalmic neonatorum are diminishing, since people are availing the services of trained midwives and of maternity centres.

Nutrition education under the Applied Nutrition Programme is directed to raise the nutritional standards of the people. It would, however, take some time before the ideas propagated under the Programme are accepted by the masses and they are suitably motivated to practise them.

Wrong postures and refractive errors should be detected early to avoid permanent impairment of the vision of youngsters. For detection and correction of these defects, the teachers as well as the parents owe responsibility to their wards. School Health Services, if properly constituted can play an important role.

"In your Savings Lies your Security and your Children's Prosperity"

Plantation Workers and Small Savings

Poverty and illiteracy have been problems that have confronted us besides unemployment and underemployment. The Government have moved in the right direction to obliterate the miseries consequent on the above and have achieved a remarkable measure of success. Any plan or scheme that the Government evolve can succeed only if it has the understanding and the spontaneous co-operation of the people.

The Government plan for the welfare of the people. The resources at their disposal are not adequate. Hence the estimates of the Government provides for the people's co-operation and contribution to a certain extent in each of the plan. It is needless to say that if this target is realised the plan becomes a success. Otherwise the opposite is the case.

Facing the problems

The general apathy of the people to the plans and the various schemes of the Government are born of frustration rather than by a critical assessment of the facts. Countries with lesser potential have achieved greater measure of progress, only because the people of these countries have stood steadfastly as one man behind the plans of their Government. It is, therefore, not improbable that we as a nation could easily surmount the problems confronting us, if only we made up our minds to face the challenge with courage and conviction.

One of the simple things expected of us is small savings. The habit of saving is ingrained in us traditionally. Just as the wild animal saves and stock-supplies of food, we too save for the rainy day. While we save for ourselves, we should also think of the nation. The savings that we effect if channelised through the Government could perform a double benefit. Besides, coming to our aid in times of need, it also helps the country achieve its objectives in the fields of development and construction.

In the world of industrial workers, savings is not a new philosophy; workers have saved from time immemorial. Although no worker likes to admit that he has a substantial amount of savings, it is a fact that the worker saves according to his capacity.

Pay Roll Savings Scheme

The small savings scheme envisages savings of small amounts through the Pay Roll for the Industrial Worker. There are millions who are benefited by this scheme. Those who agree to the deduction of a small amount every month have realised after a period of five or ten years that they have been able to save up a tidy sum, without their knowledge.

The Plantation workers with their very low wages have benefited substantially by this scheme. There have been initial oppositions and the hurdles were many, as in the case of Provident Fund. But, once the worker realises to his surprise, that he had such a large amount to his credit, it is not surprising that he speaks so highly of the scheme to his fellow workers, and inculcates the habit of savings in them. The news spreads like wild fire and every one is caught up in this spirit.

Yet there are thousands of Plantation workers, who are not participating in this scheme and benefiting by it. They simply do not realise what they are missing. They not only miss the opportunity to save for the difficult days ahead but the exhilarating experience of participation in the nation building activity and working to the prosperity of themselves and the generations after them.

"Your Small Savings Sustain Big Projects"

Post Office Fixed Deposits Accounts

A new facility, "Fixed Deposits Accounts" has been introduced in the Post Office Savings Bank.

Deposits can be made in these accounts in multiples of Rs. 50. Each deposit will be repayable on the expiry of Five years from the date of deposit, the amount payable being Rs. 62·50 for every deposit of Rs. 50.

Accounts can be opened by—

(i) Any adult in his own name ;

(ii) by two adults jointly, to be operated by both depositors or by either or the surviving depositor ;

(iii) in the name of a minor to be operated by either the minor or the guardian :

AND

(iv) the guardian on behalf of a person of unsound mind.

An adult can have only one account either in his own name or jointly with another. Only one account can be opened in the name of a minor.

The maximum deposits at credit in a single account at any time will be Rs. 25,000 and Rs. 50,000 in a joint account.

Fixed deposits accounts can be opened in any Head, Sub or Branch Post Office like Post Office Savings Bank Accounts. Cheques will be accepted for deposit at Head Post Offices and Departmental Sub-Post Offices. Commission will be charged in respect of outstation cheques at the prescribed rates.

The return on the deposits will be free of income tax. In all other matters, viz.—opening of fixed deposit accounts, repayment, transfer, etc., the procedure as for Post Office Savings Bank accounts will generally be followed. For details please contact the local Postmaster.

The return on Post Office Savings Bank accounts is 4 per cent and that on Fixed Deposits is 5 per cent. This compares favourably with the rates offered by private institutions. The interest rates on certificates and Cumulative Time Deposit accounts for Rs. 10 and above, have been raised by half a per cent.

New Process to make Sterilized Bone Meal

The Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, has developed a process for the production of bone meal which is completely chemical and is free from the drawbacks of the conventional method. Sterilized bone meal is in great demand at present, particularly for the preparation of poultry and animal feeds. Its use as a phosphatic fertilizer in agriculture has also been recognised.

According to the new process, disintegration of bones can be effected by the action of caustic soda. The paste thus obtained is subjected to a cleaning treatment for removal of caustic soda. At present distintegration of bone is done in a steam digester from which the steamed bone meal is obtained. This method involves the use of expensive steam digesters, which also suffer from limitations of low operational capacity and need for further disintegration of the product. Moreover, the bone meal obtained is not considered sterilized and is not safe to be used as feed.

The advantages of the new process are that (i) it can be worked on a small or larger scale as required and with little equipment, (ii) that the chemicals required are cheap and easily available, (iii) that complete sterilization is ensured, and (iv) that the equipment required is simple and the process can be adopted without any handicaps in villages.

The laboratory investigations have been completed and the pilot plant trials have been carried out at Bombay with 100 kg. bones. The main raw materials—bones, caustic soda, hydrochloric acid required in the process are indigenously available. No special plant and machinery is required. Only iron drums, plastic cloth for drying, wire gauge seive, wooden hammers are needed. The total capital outlay for a plant capable of processing 6,000 kg. bones per month has been estimated at Rs. 8,000. The cost of production works out to Rs. 80 per ton.

Those interested in undertaking commercial development of the process may write to the Secretary, National Research Development Corporation of India, New Delhi-1.